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24 PAGES 150 FILLS



Miss Universe

The new Miss Universe Angela Visser of Holland blows a kiss to journalists during a news conference after being crowned on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

(See Page 3)

NEWSWATCH

Deserves medal

AUCKLAND, May 24. (Reuters) A New Zealand man convicted of beating his wife found an unusual supporter at an Auckland court — his mother-in-law.

"I don't think he deserves a sentence. He deserves a medal," the mother-in-law told Otahuhu district court. "He has literally been through hell."

The woman said her daughter had driven the 36-year-old man, whose name was withheld, to extremes and if there was any trouble "she would've asked for it."

Judge David Harvey sentenced him to supervision for one year and ordered that he have anger and stress management counselling.

But Harvey added: "You were the recipient of a considerable amount of verbal and psychological abuse."

Sweeps into west

EUSSENHAUSEN, West Germany, May 24. (Reuters) An East German swept across the border to the West today — at the wheel of his road-sweeping machine.

The 62-year-old, who was sweeping the road between East and West German border posts in northern Bavaria, waited until the East German guards were not looking and drove into West Germany.

A border police spokesman said the man decided to flee after his wife told him she would not be returning from a visit to relations in West Germany.

Khomeini condemned

STRASSBOURG, May 24. (UPI) The European Parliament today condemned the "murderous regime" of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran and expressed support for one of his major opponents.

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Support for martial law

Divisions surface in China

BEIJING, May 24. (Agencies) The Navy, Air Force and all regional Army commands except for Beijing backed an unenforced martial law decree today, urging troops around the capital to end a five-day standoff with pro-democracy protesters.

The call indicated sharp divisions in the Chinese military, whose sentiment was critical in the power struggle among Chinese leaders over how to deal with the democracy movement and end widespread civil unrest.

Chinese officials, meanwhile, decided to end a two-day restoration of satellite transmission services for foreign television crews. Spokesmen for US networks said officials told them satellite service would be cut off at midnight (1500 GMT).

Contradictory Chinese news reports indicated the opposing factions were using the state-run media to promote their views.

As such, there was no clear sign of the direction of an enlarged meeting of the Communist Party's ruling politburo at which the leadership factions were playing out their hands. Chinese sources said leaders were negotiating in continuing sessions.

No leader has been seen in public since Saturday, when Premier Li Peng declared martial law in Beijing to stop mass pro-democracy demonstrations sweeping China in the greatest challenge to the communist government since its founding in 1949.

Li and senior leader Deng Xiaoping, backed by party conservatives, were struggling against moderates grouped around Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang and popular opposition to the decision to call out the Army.

Chinese sources said Li was attempting to make Zhao, who was conciliatory toward the student-led protesters, the scapegoat for the unrest. Zhao's position was unclear.

Tens of thousands of troops were called out Friday night but were stalled by citizen's barricades, igniting the leadership's fiercest power struggle since the Cultural Revolution ended in the mid-1970s.

By today, all the convoys but one had retreated from around the city into military compounds or out of sight to await orders, after several generals balked at using them to remove protesting students who have occupied central Tiananmen Square for 12 days. Tens of thousands of students still camped in the square today.

About 2,000 soldiers remained on a 13-car troop train in Beijing's main railway station, a mile from the square. But some cheered and flashed V-for victory hand signs at students in the station.

Some of the soldiers, however, said two more battalions had arrived by train at Tongshan, 9 miles east of the capital.

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said the Navy and Air Force headquarters, and party committees of two regional military commands, sent messages to the government in support of martial law.

The newspaper quoted the official Xinhua news agency as saying four other military region commands had also voiced "absolute support." The messages urged troops to "take a clear-cut stand" against the unrest.

The only regional command absent from the pro-martial law messages was Beijing, which rings the capital and is considered loyal to Deng, but some of whose generals are known to have refused the order to move.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told diplomats yesterday that Zhao had returned to work.

Students and workers demanding democratic reform are taking to the streets across the country, from dusty Lanzhou in the west to distant Harbin in the northeast.

US President George Bush, recalling the 1956 revolt in Hungary, said today he was being careful about what he said about the Chinese popular uprising to keep from inflaming the situation.

Work on the basic law, which will dictate how Hong Kong's lifestyle survives the change to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, has been suspended pending the outcome of the crisis in China.

Khaddafi, Mubarak meet for unity talks

Summit in search of Lebanese solution

CASABLANCA, May 24. (Agencies) The leaders of Egypt and Libya, under pressure to bury political differences for the sake of Arab unity during the Morocco summit, met alone today for the first time since 1977.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi, a staunch opponent of Cairo's 1979 peace pact

LATEST

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held a meeting last night. The meeting was also attended by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and King Hassan of Morocco.

Meanwhile, the daily Seyassah correspondent reports from Casablanca that Mubarak will visit Libya in June.

with Israel, spent more than two hours for a second meeting in the villa of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, delegates said. Chadli withdrew from the room for part of that time.

Aides, journalists and security men applauded when the two men emerged to join other Arab leaders at a summit session in Casablanca's royal palace.

"The meeting was very positive and we're optimistic for the future of the Arab nation," said Chadli, credited with a series of successful mediation missions.

But Khaddafi and Mubarak, whose country has just returned to Arab councils after 10 years in the cold, did not comment on their talks and Egyptian officials said they doubted the meeting meant a lasting rapprochement.

Arab and other summits are often the occasion for similar instant reconciliations which do not necessarily lead to the restoration of relations.

King Hussein of Jordan brought together the Iraqi and Syrian Presidents, Saddam Hussein and Hafez Al Assad, in Amman in 1987 and Assad has



Mubarak: victory

met Mubarak at an Islamic conference in Kuwait.

Iraq and Syria, ruled by rival branches of the Baath party, remain as deeply divided as ever, especially over the future of Lebanon, the main bone of contention at the summit.

Mubarak and Khaddafi arrived in the same car at the royal palace where the summit is taking place.

At the palace door, Khaddafi

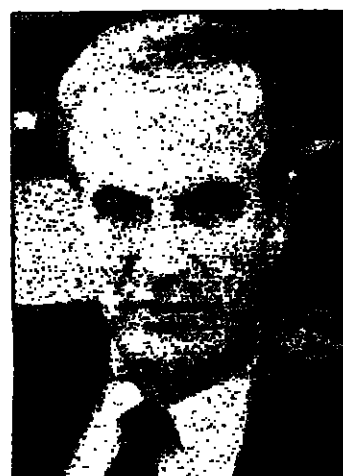
bantered cordially with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, another past target of radical Libyan rhetoric.

Morocco's King Hassan yesterday welcomed Egypt back to the Arab League as he opened the summit.

Mubarak urged greater solidarity, saying the Arab world hoped this conference would mark a "new dawn."



Khaddafi: cordial



Assad: oppose

Mubarak, reading from a prepared text, called the gathering "a historical conference, convening in an atmosphere of brotherhood."

The Arab peoples, he said, were pinning their hopes on this conference to mark "a new dawn." He urged greater solidarity among the leaders and warned against "wasting time"

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 4)

Marcos backers petition jurists

MANILA, May 24. (AP) Former political allies of President Ferdinand Marcos asked the supreme court today to grant passports to the Marcos family and lift a travel ban so the ailing Marcos can die in his homeland.

Arturo Tolentino, a one-time running mate with Marcos, and several other former Marcos associates filed the petition as doctors in Hawaii said the ousted president's condition had deteriorated to the point that life-support machines were keeping him alive.

There was no indication whether the court would hold a public hearing or require President Corason Aquino's government to comment on the petition. Last Friday, the court rejected a motion by Marcos' lawyer, Juan David, for the ousted leaders' return.

In the petition, Tolentino said Marcos should be allowed to return to answer allegations of misconduct during his 20-year rule, and out of compassion for his condition.

Tolentino ran for vice president on Marcos' ticket during the fraud-marred 1986 presidential election, in which both Marcos and Aquino claimed victory.

"The right to return to one's country becomes imperative when the purpose is to answer criminal charges," the petition said. "The right becomes compassionate when the reason to return is to preside (over the) burial of a mother. And it becomes merciful and blessed when the return is prompted by the desire to die and be buried in his native land."

Doctors in Honolulu meanwhile said the prospects for Marcos' survival are slim.

"It's a miracle he's survived so far," Dr. Calvin Wong, Marcos' cardiologist, said at a news conference.

Doctors said Marcos' life is threatened by a massive bacterial infection, kidney failure, cardiac failure, pulmonary failure and pneumonia. He is unable to breathe on his own, they said.

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Radioactive antibodies seek and destroy cancer inside body

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24, (AP): Nuclear-tipped antibodies that seek and destroy cancer inside the body show promise of giving doctors a new way to attack tumours, researchers say.

The goal is to blitz cancer cells with huge doses of killer radiation. Doctors launch the attack with protein probes that hunt down the

cancer deep within the body.

In initial experimental use, researchers found that the strategy wiped out all detectable cancer in people who were not helped by ordinary treatment. However, far more study will be necessary before researchers know for sure whether this approach will cure cancer. The findings were presented yesterday by

Dr Oliver Press of the University of Washington to the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Press is one of several researchers around the country who are working with radioactive antibodies to combat cancer. However, he said his group is using the highest doses of radiation yet tried.

Antibodies are natural hunters produced by the body to find germs, cancer and other dangerous invaders. Scientists can now produce large quantities of antibodies that look for cancer, and they have fitted them with powerful warheads of radioactive iodine.

With this strategy, doctors believe they can

deliver far higher doses of radiation than would otherwise be possible and still spare healthy tissue from harm.

In other research presented at the meeting: ● Dr Donald Kaufman of Massachusetts General Hospital reported preliminary evidence that a combination of three drugs

followed by radiation can eliminate bladder cancer.

● Dr Gaston Rivera of St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, said a review shows that about two-thirds of all youngsters with acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common childhood cancer, can now be cured.

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Population rising at fast pace once again

WASHINGTON, May 24, (AP): The world's population growth, after having slowed in the 1970s, is speeding up once more, the Population Reference Bureau reported yesterday.

As of mid-1988, the world will contain about 5.24 billion people, nearly a quarter-billion more than in 1987, group said.

Demographers Carl Haub and Mary Kent report that the expansion from five billion to six billion could be attained within less than a decade if growth continues at current rates.

There have been declines in the growth rate in some developing countries, such as China, Thailand and Indonesia, but there is little evidence of change in many others, they reported.

China remains the most populated country on earth with 1.1 billion people and an estimated doubling time of 49 years.

Second is India with 835 million and it has a faster growth rate. Expected doubling time there is 32 years.

Far behind those two population giants, the Soviet Union is third with 289 million people and a doubling time of 70 years.

The United States is fourth in population at 248 million and this country will likely take 98 years to double that number.

Fifth is Indonesia, with 184.6 million people and a doubling time of 35 years.

Other nations with more than 100 million residents, and their anticipated doubling times, are Brazil, 147 million, 34 years; Japan, 123 million, 141 years; Nigeria, 115 million, 24 years; Bangladesh, 115 million, 25 years; Pakistan, 110 million, 24 years.



Streep waves from the steps of the Festival Palace in Cannes during the presentation of the film, 'A Cry in the Dark' (Reuter wirephoto)

Cannes fest ends US film wins

PARIS, May 24, (Agencies): The US erotic comedy "Sex, Lies and Videotape" won the coveted Golden Palm Award for best entry at the 42nd Cannes Film Festival yesterday.

The film scooped two prizes. American James Spader won the best actor award for his role as a mixed-up seducer in director Steven Soderbergh's peep at a family plunged into sexual turmoil.

American Meryl Streep received best actress award for her portrayal in the film "A Cry in the Dark" of Lindy Chamberlain, convicted in one of Australia's most sensational murder trials of killing her baby in 1980.

"Sex, Lies and Videotape" centres on the relationship between four young Americans: a husband, wife, the wife's campy sister and an old friend of the husband, played by Spader, who reveals all is not well in the cosy family atmosphere.

Streep's best actress award, which topped in all-American evening at one of the film industry's most prestigious events, added another crown to the 40-year-old star's growing list of achievements.

Chamberlain was convicted of murdering her child and was jailed for life in 1982. She spent three years in jail but was pardoned after the infant's tattered jacket was found.

Streep's interpretation of the role, especially her work at acquiring a Australian accent, was hailed as a masterpiece.

Here is a list of the other awards presented last night at the close of the festival:

- Special Jury prize: (tie) "Trop Belle Pour Toi" (Too Beautiful For You), French, directed by Bertrand Blier; "Nuovo Cinema Paradiso" (Paradise Cinema), Italy, directed by Giuseppe Tornatore.
- Best direction: Emir Kusturica, Yugoslavia, for "Dom Za Vesanje" (Time of the Gypsies).
- Jury prize: Jesus De Montreal (Jesus of Montreal), Canada, directed by Denys Arcand.
- Best artistic contribution: "Mystery Train," United States, directed by Jim Jarmusch.
- Golden Camera for a first film: "Az En XX Szazadom" (My Twentieth Century), Hungary, directed by Ildiko Enyedi.
- Golden Palm for short film: "50 Ans" (50 Years), Canada, directed by Gilles Carles, produced by the Canadian National Film Board, mentions to "Yes We Can," United States, directed by Faith Hubley, and "Performance Pieces," United States, directed by Tom Abrams.
- Grand prix of the technical commission: "Kurou Ame" (Black Rain), Japan, directed by Shohei Imamura.
- A special prize was awarded to Gregory Peck for his lifetime contribution to the cinema.

Scientists 'confirm' cold fusion work Swedes echo claim

SANTA FE, New Mexico, May 24, (Agencies): Texas A and M University researchers said yesterday they performed new experiments that appear to confirm "cold fusion" work by scientists in Utah; despite widespread doubts about the potentially revolutionary reaction.

The Texas A and M scientists gave the opening presentation at a conference called to examine the controversial claim by University of Utah chemists Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann who said they produced a nuclear reaction at room temperature.

The Texans said a series of complex experiments continue to confirm production of excess heat and produced neutrons and tritium, a form of hydrogen - key evidence heat is coming from a nuclear reaction.

Stressing that none of the results "will stand up in court," Texas A and M's John Appleby said, "that tritium ... can only be coming from fusion. That's the bottom line."

But in Stockholm Swedish physicists said yesterday they also produced a burst of neutron radiation in a room-temperature experiment.

The scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Physics said their method was similar to

the Pons and Fleischmann experiment.

Birger Emmoth, Magnus Jandel, Irena Gudowska and Wladaw Gudowski said in a press release they ran an electrical current between platinum and palladium electrodes immersed in heavy water containing deuterium, a variety of hydrogen.

"The results indicate fusion reactions can occur at low temperatures in the electrode material," palladium. This gives certain support to Fleischmann and Pons ideas," the release said. About 500 scientists from around the world gathered for the New Mexico workshop on cold fusion phenomena, organised by the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Department of Energy.

James Brophy, vice president of research of the University of Utah, praised the Texas A and M research as "a very careful, well-presented scientific experiment in its early stages and appears in my view to support the Pons-Fleischmann work."

Brophy also announced that the University of Utah reached an agreement to work with the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to further explore their findings.

Back to world after 130 days

Cavewoman emerges

CARLSBAD, New Mexico, May 24, (Agencies): An Italian woman who lost track of time while living 130 days alone in a sealed cave with no human contact climbed out yesterday, waved to a crowd of about 60 people and said she felt "great."

Stefania Follini poked her head out of the entrance to the cave and put sunglasses on over her regular glasses to reduce the glare of the bright midday sun. The temperature was 97 degrees Fahrenheit (36° Celsius), a big difference from the cave's constant 74 degrees (23°).

The 27-year-old Italian interior decorator volunteered for the isolation experiment, which began Jan 13 in an effort to learn how people may be affected by the long solitude of interplanetary travel.

She apparently learned some English during her isolation and told the press she was "very happy" to be back. She was greeted by Follini on Monday to announce the end of the experiment. She was then taken to a hospital through messages typed on computers and then by helicopter.

Follini broke the woman's record for living in isolation set last year by French scientist Veronique Le Guen, 32, who completed a 111-day solitary confinement in a cave in southern France.

Follini will be poked with needles and tagged with electrodes in coming weeks while scientists try to figure out what happened to her body and mind during the four months, 10 days she spent 30 feet (nine metres) underground.

In the absence of night, day or timepieces, Miss Follini's menstrual cycle stopped and her sleep-wake cycle changed radically. She tended to stay up 20 to 25 hours a day for about 10 hours.

Researchers believe her mus-



Follini: feeling great

cle tone and the level of calcium in her bones decreased, that her immune system is depressed and that she is able to concentrate more deeply.

Follini kept up strength and mobility during her months' existence by doing calisthenics and yoga, and maintained her mental faculties by reading and decorating her 10-foot-square (three metres-square) plastic enclosure.

Without the sun and other people, time passed quickly for Follini. She believed that two months had passed instead of four, and was shocked when experiment co-ordinator Maurizio Montalbini notified her by computer that the experiment was almost over.

Follini later explained at a news conference, she was not exactly alone in the cave. Speaking through an interpreter, she said mice, frogs and grasshoppers kept her company.

"I found myself talking to them," she said. "But it's hard to debate with mice, because they don't talk back and I'm always right."

"I love the sun," she said in Italian during a news conference with US reporters.

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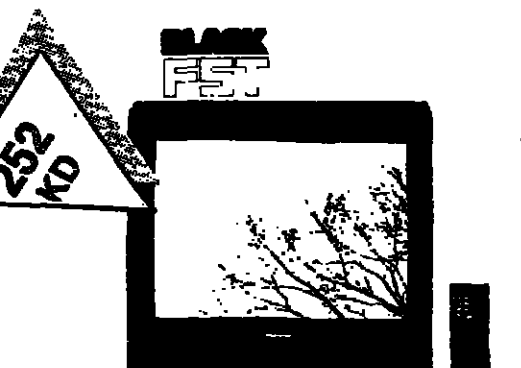
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Raped jogger suffers terrifying flashback

NEW YORK, May 24, (UPI) — The Central Park runner who was bludgeoned and raped by a gang of teenagers five weeks ago suffered what appeared to be a terrifying flashback in her hospital bed, where nurses had to restrain and sedate her, it was reported yesterday.

"Leave me alone! You're the (expletive) who did this to me," the woman said to four people in her intensive care unit room during the early morning outburst Sunday, one witness told the New York Post.

"Don't hold me down," she said as two nurses tried to restrain her arms and legs. "You did this before. Leave me alone!" the woman was quoted as saying.

The witness said the outburst appeared to be a flashback to the April 19 attack during which a gang of youths allegedly beat the woman with fists, a brick and a pipe, then held her on the ground as she was raped repeatedly.

Sixteen-year-olds have been indicted for rape and attempted murder in the case and have been held without bail or in lieu of bail.

"She seemed to know what she was saying. It looked like she was having flashbacks," the observer told the Post.

The 28-year-old Wall Street investment banker remained agitated through the night despite being given a sedative, the source said, and begged nurses to let her leave Metropolitan Hospital, where she has been recovering since the attack.

"She kept saying, I want to leave," the source told the Post. "I don't care. I just want to leave."

The woman also has accepted nurses' assistance and walked briefly in the hallway outside the intensive care ward, where she took her first tentative steps last week, hospital officials said.

Doctors have been cautious in their evaluations of the woman's recovery and the chances she might ever lead a normal life, saying she suffered extensive brain damage and likely would have no memory at all of the Central Park attack.

She lay comatose in the hospital for two weeks before stirring and uttering her first words. Last week she underwent surgery to rebuild her damaged cheekbone, an operation doctors hoped would correct the double vision they said had been hindering her neurological recovery.

CANNES, France: US actor Mickey Rourke, at the centre of a controversy over comments he made at the Cannes Film Festival, denied that he ever gave money to the Irish Republican Army.

Rourke was denounced by British lawmakers after a news conference Friday called to promote his latest movie, *Francesca*, in which he plays St Francis of Assisi.

Asked then if he ever donated money to religious causes, Rourke replied, "Yes I have, to causes in Northern Ireland. Yes, to Joe Doherty, who is a prisoner in New York City."

Doherty, 33, was convicted of the murder of a British Army captain and sentenced to life in prison in 1981. He escaped from prison, but was captured by the FBI in 1983 and jailed in New York. (AP)

Cocaine mom versus child Fight for rights

CHICAGO, May 24, (UPI) — Melanie Green is a poor, young mother who liked cocaine. Green, 24, of Rockford, Ill., liked cocaine so much, she even took it while she was pregnant. That was a mistake.

Green's daughter, Bianca, died two days after she was born Feb. 2. Officials say the cause of death was oxygen deprivation, resulting from the mother's use of cocaine.

On May 8, Winnebago County Prosecutor Paul Loggi charged Green with involuntary manslaughter in what he said is the first homicide case involving a mother whose use of drugs while pregnant resulted in the death of her child.

The action has touched off a debate among legal experts and social scientists.

Rockford, 90 miles northwest of Chicago, once claimed the nation's highest unemployment rate but in recent years has managed an economic recovery. It is the state's second largest city — a traditional community whose residents believe strongly in family values.

"I think there's a lot of shock and outrage by members of the community and the medical community at the fact that babies are being born having been exposed to cocaine — in some cases addicted to cocaine," Loggi said.

"We have made a commitment in an effort to protect newborns — the people least able to protect themselves. We are going to deal with those mothers who place babies at risk."

Bianca was a tiny baby, weighing just 4 pounds, 3 ounces.

During the birth, the placenta ruptured — a common complication of cocaine usage — causing further damage and leaving the infant without enough oxygen during delivery.

Yet the baby lived.

Pictures show her colour was poor, her skin discoloured. She was hooked up to a heart monitor. But after a two-day struggle, Bianca died at 1:30 am on Feb. 4. "I loved her. I did," said Green, who also has a 6-year-old son, Damien. "It was the worst time of my life."

But, Green said, she thinks the state's attorney's decision to prosecute her "is even worse."

"They should help people," said Green, who is free on \$3,500 bond and scheduled to make her next court appearance May 31. "I tried to get help, but I didn't get any."

"What we're talking about are things known to cause death," said Gwen Osborne, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which will represent Green.

Osborne said the ACLU believes that because she had not been told cocaine use could be harmful to her baby, the charges against Green violate her constitutional right to equal protection under the law. The ACLU also said Green's rights to privacy had been violated and that the state is trying to give the fetus rights.

"What we're talking about is the death of a fetus," Osborne said. "The Supreme Court has ruled a fetus is not a person with legal rights. What occurred occurred prior to birth, not after."

Osborne also said, "prosecuting a woman for acts to her own body is an unprecedented intrusion to the right to privacy."

Loggi rejects the ACLU line.

"Those arguments fly in the face of prevailing Illinois case law and common law tradition," he said.

Northern Illinois University law professor Jeffrey Parness agreed, noting there is no constitutional right to take illegal drugs and some states are moving to discourage drug use among pregnant women.

In Minnesota, legislation requiring pregnant women to take drug tests is under consideration.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SANTA ROSA, California: Accused mass murderer Ramon Salcido broke his jailhouse silence to thank the man who found his daughter Carmina, whose throat Salcido is charged with slashing, press reports said Tuesday.

Salcido telephoned the Santa Rosa press Democrat on Monday night and gave a 10-minute interview from his isolation cell, nicknamed "the bubble" because its occupant is constantly visible through glass to sheriff's deputies.

"I want to thank the guy who found my daughter," Salcido said. "He saved my daughter's life. I'm very glad he found her and I want to thank the hospital."

"I love her and I am thinking about her," Salcido said of Carmina. "She is my daughter and I love her. She is everything I have."

Salcido is charged with killing seven people during a wine country rampage April 14. Two of the victims were daughters Sofia, 4, and Teresa, 1. Carmina, 3, was found at a county dump, her throat slit ear to ear, alongside the bodies of her sisters. (UPI)

BERNE, The Swiss are the world's second most patriotic people, with only Americans taking greater pride in their country, according to a survey published on Tuesday.

The Geneva university poll of 1,400 people showed that just over 77 per cent were proud to be Swiss.

Citing similar polls, project leader Anna Metlich said that in neighbouring West Germany only one person in five was proud of their citizenship. The Swiss were outdone only by the 79 per cent of proud US citizens. (Reuters)


STOCKHOLM, Sweden: A moment of sun-bathing turned into a 48-hour long nightmare for a woman who was trapped in a deck chair on her balcony, the Swedish national news agency TT reported Tuesday.

The chair's cloth tore and the chair folded as the 80-year-old woman sat down, leaving her with her head between her knees, TT said.

The incident occurred in Malmo in southern Sweden last Saturday. On Monday, a caretaker observed a woman sitting in a peculiar fashion on a balcony across the street. TT said.

He alerted the police who forced the woman's apartment door open and let her out of the chair. She was taken to a local hospital in a state of shock, TT said. The woman was not identified. (AP)

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Visser: Miss Universe

Holland wins title

CANCUN, Mexico, May 23, (AP) — Angela Visser of Holland was crowned Miss Universe after being chosen last night from a field of 76 contestants from around the world.

Visser, 22, a model and beauty queen from Rotterdam, wins \$300,000 in prizes and a year as titleholder.

First runner-up was Miss Sweden, Louise Drentham, 19; second runner-up, Miss USA, Gretchen Polhemus, 24, of Fort Worth, Texas; third runner-up, Miss Poland, Joanna Gapinska, 21, and fourth runner-up, Miss Mexico, Adriana Abascal, 18.

The other five finalists were: Miss Chile, Macarena Mina, 20; Miss Venezuela, Lisa Ljung, 18; Miss Germany, Andrea Stelzer, 24; Miss Jamaica, Sandra Foster, 19, and Miss Finland, Aasa Maria Loewdahl, 20.

BRUSSELS: Brussels taxi drivers will soon be dispensing more than worldly wisdom to their passengers. From Thursday, they will start offering leaflets about AIDS during the day and free condoms at night.

Taxi drivers talk the whole time and so are ideal for the job," Jacques Golembowski, a representative for one of the two taxi companies taking part in the week-long scheme, said on Tuesday. (Reuters)

BOUSHAHRI buyers' GUIDE Summer 1989

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INTERNATIONAL

Experts examine missile debris

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, May 24, (AP): Pakistani military experts are examining debris from an unidentified missile that fell deep inside Pakistan territory this week, a defence spokesman said today.

Brig. Riaz Ullah, chief of Inter Services Public Relations, confirmed reports that some type of large missile fell in a remote area near the village of Bhakkar in western Punjab province on Monday.

No one was hurt and there was no property damage, Riaz said.

Pakistani English-language newspapers

quoted Army Chief Gen. Mirza Aslam Baig as saying experts were considering the possibility that the missile was an enhanced, Soviet-made SS-1 "Scud B" fired from neighbouring Afghanistan.

There also was speculation it could have been a wayward "Agni" ballistic missile that India successfully test-fired for the first time on Monday, newspaper said.

In New Delhi, an Indian Defence Ministry spokesman dismissed the possibility that the test-fired Agni hit Pakistan.

"It landed where it was supposed to ... the

Bay of Bengal," he said on condition of not being identified, in keeping with government practice.

India launched the missile, which has a maximum range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) from Chandipur near its eastern coast on the Bay of Bengal, Pakistan's Punjab province is more than 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) northwest of Chandipur.

Pakistan has gone to war with India three times since the two countries were partitioned at the end of British colonial rule in 1947.

India says Amnesty report one-sided

NEW DELHI, India, May 24, (AP): India said yesterday a report by the London-based Amnesty International on human rights violations by Indian troops in Sri Lanka was one-sided and lacked credibility.

"We need no lectures from self-appointed watchdogs of human rights," a government spokesman said in reaction to the report.

The Amnesty report dated May 1989 claimed that Indian and Sri Lankan security forces had illegally detained and caused the disappearance of hundreds of suspected rebels despite the lifting of emergency laws that had allowed detention without trial.

The 45-page report said 780 people had disappeared in Sri Lanka since emergency regulations were imposed in 1983 when a homeland campaign by the Tamils took a violent turn.

Amnesty said 83 of the missing people vanished after India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement in 1987 designed to end the Tamil insurgency.

The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the report was biased and lacked credibility.

Halt lynch mob: Wright's lawyer

WASHINGTON, May 24, (Agencies): A lawyer for Jim Wright, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, sought dismissal of charges against the Texas Democrat yesterday and called on the House ethics committee not to allow a "lynch mob" to drive him from office.

But the committee's special

counsel, Richard Phelan, declared the integrity of the House was at stake in the inquiry into charges Wright might have broken House rules 69 times by evading income limits and accepting gifts from a close friend.

Wright's lawyer, Stephen Susman, denied the panel's charge that Wright's bulk sales of his book, "Reflections of a Public

Man," had evaded income limits. Susman also disputed a finding that Wright's friend George Mallick had a direct interest in legislation and so was barred from giving more than \$100 a year in gifts to legislators.

The committee has said that Wright took \$145,000 in gifts from Mallick between 1979 and 1988.

Virtues extolled

Bonn celebrates

BONN, May 24, (AP): President Richard von Weizsäcker today extolled the virtues and failings of his nation on its 40th birthday, praising the spirit that has made West Germany a world economic power but warning against "self-satisfaction."

At a state celebration to observe West Germany's founding, Weizsäcker told his fellow Germans that their suffering and successes of the post-war period had earned them the right to enjoy their prosperity.

He declared his nation's allegiance to the West, twice praising the United States for its help in rebuilding the West German state from the smoldering ashes of the defeated Third Reich.

His clear embrace of the NATO alliance appeared to be a signal to the increasingly left-leaning populace that notions of a neutral German state are ill-advised and could jeopardise the peace and stability they have built over the past four decades.

West Germany has become embroiled in a dispute with the United States and Britain over the fate of short-range nuclear missiles based here, and the argument has strained relations among the traditionally close allies.

"Under the conditions of the cold war it was easy to be united," Weizsäcker told his audience at Bonn's Beethoven Hall. "It becomes more uncomfortable when the world no longer gives clear information on who is for us and who is against us."

Weizsäcker praised Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev for his "breath-taking" process of change he has introduced in his country.

UK hints at retaliation in spy row

LONDON, May 24, (Reuters): Britain hinted strongly to the Soviet Union today that it would retaliate if the Kremlin reduced British representation in Moscow in a worsening row over tit-for-tat expulsions.

Senior government sources said Britain would not bow to what it regards as unacceptable Soviet demands for a cut in the number of British nationals and their Soviet staff working in Moscow.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the BBC the Soviet ultimatum was extremely foolish and "simply not thought through."

The two countries have been locked in an escalating diplomatic confrontation since Britain expelled 14 Soviet diplomats and journalists last Friday, accusing them of spying.

The dispute has brought a sudden halt to a recent improvement in relations, capped by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to London last month. It has prompted fears of long-term damage to Anglo-Soviet ties.

The Kremlin responded to the expulsions by ordering 14 British diplomats and journalists to leave the Soviet Union.

In a further move, it said that the number of Britons and Soviet citizens employed in Moscow should be cut from 375 to 205, the same level as official Soviet representation in Britain.

The reduction could damage British diplomatic and commercial activity in the Soviet Union.

The British Foreign Office has put pressure on the Kremlin to change its mind but official sources said that if it did not, avenues of retaliation could include a reduction in the number of Soviet personnel in Britain.

There are only 170 British diplomats, journalists and businessmen resident in Moscow whereas the Soviet Union's quota of 205 in Britain is fully composed of Soviet nationals. They work alongside some 400 British employees.

Howe said: "It's very different matter to have a ceiling on the number of Soviet citizens in this country ... and to move, as the Russians have done, to a totally different proposition — measures affecting both Britons and Russians in Moscow."

Thai train crash, 8 die

BANGKOK, May 24, (AP): A speeding passenger train derailed at a hillside bend in northern Thailand and most of its cars plunged into a ravine, killing at least eight people and seriously injuring 57, officials said today.

More than 100 other passengers were slightly hurt when 13 of the 15 cars derailed last night in the Long district of Phrae province, about 490 kilometres (300 miles) north of Bangkok, officials said.

Soldiers of the 3rd Army region were helping to pull the wreckage out of the ravine today.

Phairot Rotjanamung, head of public relations at the State Railways of Thailand, said the express train was travelling at 75 kilometres (47 miles) an hour instead of the usual 45 kilometres (28 miles) for such a slope when the accident occurred.

The government presented its case against the United States yesterday in a meeting with the delegation sent by the OAS in the wake of Panama's nullified election May 7.

"The Panamanian government took the opportunity to present a series of documents

Soviets agree to limits on troops

Bush views proposal as meaningful

WASHINGTON, May 24, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to impose ceilings on Soviet forces stationed in East European countries, US officials said today.

In a parallel move, the officials said, Gorbachev suggested that no country, including the Soviet Union and the US, be allowed to have more than 35 to 40 per cent of the combined manpower totals of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

The moves meet US demands that are designed to reduce a large Warsaw Pact edge over the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in non-nuclear strength. For instance, Soviet tanks now account for nearly 70 per cent of all NATO and Warsaw Pact armour.

Gorbachev's overture came less than a week before a summit meeting in Brussels attended by US President George Bush and the leaders of the 15 other NATO governments.



Two Soviet painters on a mobile crane retouch a newly-erected seven-storey high portrait of Lenin before the inauguration of Congress.

Soviet Parliament opening

Agenda battle likely

MOSCOW, May 24, (AP): The Soviet Union's new Parliament opened today toward its opening bell, with factions hastily organising their programme to meet voters' high expectations of change ignited by President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

With the opening of the Congress of People's Deputies in the Kremlin less than 24 hours away, Moscow reformers were engaging in almost continuous meetings to set strategy.

Communist Party deputies, led by Gorbachev, met yesterday in a similar meeting.

Gorbachev, in a brief interview with the Soviet television news programme "Vremya" last night, said "the people are expecting a lot from this session."

He did not give any clues of the party's strategy, saying only the meeting of party members who are deputies "brought them closer together and deepened their understanding."

The new, 2,250-member Congress was selected in the country's first contested elections in 70 years.

A group of Moscow reformers, including figures as diverse as human rights activist Andrei Sakharov and populist party official Boris Yeltsin, proposed an agenda that calls on the Congress immediately to take up key questions of economic and political reform.

Co-operatives want to repeal a decree that kicked them out of profitable businesses, Armenians want a solution to the festering ethnic problems in Nagorno-Karabakh and Baltic leaders want economic independence.

But those factions had not coalesced enough to plan tactics to substitute their priorities for the party's.

Historian Yuri Afanasiev told the Moscow deputies yesterday that the party had set its own agenda for a short-lived Congress and divided its own slate for the Supreme Soviet legislature.

The Congress' formal duties are to meet once a year, choose a president and 542-member Supreme Soviet legislature, and approve the President's recommendations for premier, head of the Supreme Court.

The US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Soviets had also offered to reduce Warsaw Pact tank and armoured personnel carriers to just above NATO levels.

Specifically, the Soviets said they would reduce their tank totals by 17,580 and personnel carriers by about 27,000, the officials said.

The Soviet position was outlined by Soviet negotiators in a closed meeting yesterday in Vienna with US and NATO officials. It was an elaboration of the cuts Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had told Secretary of State James Baker about two weeks ago in Moscow.

Bush views the Soviet proposal for sweeping cuts in troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe as meaningful and serious, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said today.

Fitzwater said the offer enabled a NATO spokesman to outline a response during a meeting in Moscow with Baker on May 11.

Bush told foreign journalists NATO is winning the war of "ideology and philosophy" with the Warsaw Pact countries, but said he wanted to avoid comments that may cause "violence and bloodshed," according to an interview published today.

"I think it is a time for great optimism. The NATO countries are on the winning side in terms of ideology and philosophy," said Bush, interviewed for the first time by foreign correspondents in Washington.

"I would refer you not just to the reforms of glasnost and perestroika, take Tiananmen Square, the election in Panama, and other places as well," he was quoted as saying in The Guardian of London.

Speaking in the Oval Office to four journalists from Britain, Italy, Belgium and West Germany, Bush said he welcomed that "the democratic way is on the march and it is not going to be stopped" in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, but wanted "to avoid radical exhortation."

Bush said it was uncertain whether he could achieve a settlement of the dispute within NATO over modernisation of short-range nuclear missiles, which the alliance had hoped to resolve before it meets in Brussels May 29-30.

"I am not sure now, but we will keep working on the problem. I have avoided laying down US mandates on this question," he said.

"There is still a gap to bridge," Baker said yesterday of the impasse between the United States and West Germany.

Baker said he hopes the disagreement can be settled before Monday's opening of the summit.

NEWS IN BRIEF



War criminal

France's most wanted war criminal Paul Touvier (above) was arrested yesterday after 45 years on the run. Touvier, leader of the collaborationist militia in the south-eastern French city of Lyon during World War Two, was arrested in the grounds of a monastery near the city of Nice. He was convicted twice of war crimes and sentenced to death in absentia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anti-drug pact

ISLAMABAD, May 24, (AP): Indian and Pakistani officials agreed today to take stronger steps to counter drug trafficking, smuggling and terrorism.

Officials from the two countries decided to try to co-operate more closely in fighting these problems during a three-day meeting in the Pakistani capital.

Soviet submarine

MOSCOW, May 24, (AP): Soviet search ships have photographed the bulk of a nuclear-powered submarine that sank off Norway last month and found no increase in radiation in the area, the official Tass news agency said.

The Soviet Navy submarine Komсомолец, laden with nuclear-tipped torpedoes, sank April 7 after a fire broke out on board. Forty-two Soviet seamen died in the accident.

Benazir's visit

ISLAMABAD, May 24, (AP): Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived today for an official visit to Turkey, her first to a NATO-member country.

Benazir, accompanied by her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and a large delegation, was welcomed at the airport by Premier Turgut Ozal. Ozal, in a welcoming statement, stressed the friendly ties between the two countries and said Turkey was pleased with the return to democracy in Pakistan.

Bulgarian riots

VIENNA, May 24, (Reuters): Three people died and three were injured in clashes between police and rioters in north-eastern Bulgaria at the weekend, the official BTA news agency reported yesterday.

Two people were killed by ricocheting bullets after police were attacked and fired warning shots in the village of Todor Ikonomovo, BTA said. A third person died of heart failure during riots in the town of Kalinovo, it added.

Pilot charged

MOSCOW, May 24, (Reuters): Soviet military prosecutors have filed hijacking and attempted murder charges against a pilot who defected to Turkey on a commandeered MIG-29 fighter.

Papandreou's affair

ATHENS, May 24, (Reuters): Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, whose affair with an airline stewardess has hurt his party in the opinion polls, could marry his girlfriend before next month's elections, lawyers said today.

Papandreou, 70, filed a new petition for divorce yesterday and his American wife Margaret appeared to agree unconditionally to end their 39-year marriage by mutual consent.

Solidarity concern

WARSAW, May 24, (Reuters): Poland's Solidarity trade union expressed concern today at an official decision to cancel one of its election television programmes and said it would continue to criticise Polish authorities during the campaign.

Nagy's funeral

BUDAPEST, May 24, (AP): A funeral tribute to Imre Nagy — 31 years after he was executed for leading a revolt against the government — will be observed throughout the country, the official MTI news agency said today.

237 jailed

BELGRADE, May 24, (AP): Authorities have jailed 237 ethnic Albanians without charge in the volatile province of Kosovo, a regional official said yesterday.

Broader ties

SEOUL, May 24, (AP): The Soviet Union has indicated it wants broader ties with South Korea and talks have been held on establishing diplomatic relations with Poland and Yugoslavia, the Foreign Ministry said today.

Car bomb blast

BILBAO, Spain, May 24, (AP): A car bomb blast believed triggered by Basque separatists killed three policemen and injured five others today in this northern Basque city, a provincial spokesman said.

Taiwan premier

TAIPEI, May 24, (AP): Lee Huan, secretary general of the governing Nationalist Party, was selected today to succeed Yu Kuo-Hua as premier. Yu, 75, who resigned last week under fire for his cautious approach to economic and political reforms, will serve until later this month when the lawmaking legislative Yuan, controlled by the Nationalists, will formally approve Lee Huan's appointment.

GERMAN WEEK

Exhibition and Family Entertainment
24th-27th May 1989, Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel
Under the auspices of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Exhibition	
May 24th, 25th and 27th	9.30 - 1 pm Trade only 5 pm - 9 pm General Public
Friday 26th	9.30 - 9 pm General Public

A total number of 36 stands exhibiting a wide variety of commodities from high technical equipment to foodstuff. Including: Internal decor, cosmetics, cars, porcelain, arts and crafts section with a doll maker, glass artisan and porcelain painter.

First Tennis Nations Fun Cup Kuwait
From 18 - 25. 05. 1989 at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel Indoor Tennis Center with 24 teams of different Nationality competing in knock-out system.
Final round Thursday, May 25, 1989, 3.00 - 8.00 pm
Presentation of awards by H.E. the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
Tennis Fete with European snacks, drinks and music after the finals (Tickets available from Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel for KD 3-).

Registration of teams (two male, one female of same Nationality), till May 13, 1989. Draw on May 16, 1989 at 8.00 pm. Information on all aspects of Nations Cup from Kuwait Regency Palace Fitness Center. Tel.: 5728000 - ext. 7114.

International Children's Festival
Friday May 26th, From 3 pm - 6 pm. Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel, South Ballroom
Tickets KD 1.500 Children, KD 3.000 Adults

Attractions
Tombola, German and Kuwait folklore stands, Children's Fashion Show, Magician, Fishing Game, Marlboro racing car, Tug 'O' War, Disco, Ready-made pop corn, live band, costume parade of international costumes and a Smurf puppet show, plus a fortune teller.

Games
Hit a head (ball game), darts, pin a tail, stack a box, balloon busting, still walking, remote control car racing, painting competition (5-8 yrs), face painting, balloon competition, video games.

On Sale
T-Shirts, Hobby items
Plus cafeteria refreshments including sausages, hot dogs, French fries, soft drinks, coffee, tea and cakes.

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Write to P.O. Box 8640 Salwa, 22057
Telex: WISAL 46588 KT Fax: 5629356

Assailants fire at Army foot patrol

Israelis detain Palestinians

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank, May 24, (Agencies): Soldiers on foot patrol in this Biblical town reported they were shot at today, but no one was hit. It was the second gun attack on Israeli security forces in Bethlehem in two days.

Also today, troops raided the West Bank village of Husan and the refugee camp Al Amari, rounding up dozens of suspected PLO and Muslim fundamentalist activists. A witness said soldiers kicked and slapped people in the arrest sweep in Al Amari.

More than 30 West Bank villages have been raided since Sunday and scores of Palestinians detained in a new crackdown aimed at rounding up organisers and asserting Israeli authority in areas ignored by the Army in the past.

No parole for Sirhan

SOLEDAD, California, May 24, (UPI): Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who assassinated Sen. Robert Kennedy during the 1968 presidential campaign, lost a bid for parole for the 10th time when a three-member panel unanimously ordered him to remain behind bars in Soledad prison.

After a 4 1/2-hour hearing and a hour's deliberation yesterday David Brown, chairman of the board of prison terms, said the board still felt that Sirhan "poses an unreasonable risk to society if released."

CHANEL



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In another development, Parliament gave preliminary approval to a bill that would allow authorities to confiscate the money or property of terror organisations or of people convicted of security offences in Israel.

The bill, aimed at stopping the flow of PLO funds to Israeli Arabs, also permits the courts to by-pass laws of evidence in the interest of national security.

"We don't like to put in that you need not stick to the laws of evidence," said an Israeli legal adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"But when a state is threatened from all sides, you kick all ways," he said.

The bill must be approved in two more readings before Parliament before it becomes law.

In the Israeli town of Petah Tikvah, municipal officials said they planned to build shacks for Arab labourers on the outskirts of town to discourage them from entering the city. "It's a catastrophe today. They are walking around everywhere. They use the hallways as toilets," said city official Avi Lavi.

The Petah Tikvah proposal is the latest in a series of restrictions against Palestinian labourers adopted by Israeli towns in the past weeks. During the same period, Israelis have begun stoning Arab workers, killing one and injuring scores of others.

The incidents were triggered by the slaying of an Israeli Army sergeant and the disappearance of a second soldier, both blamed on Palestinians.

In the shooting in Bethlehem, there were no reports of injuries or damage, an Army official said. Soldiers did not return fire.

The shooting came amid mounting concern over Palestinian threats to step up violence and end a policy of not using guns in the 17-month old uprising.

Jewish settlers marched on a Palestinian village to avenge a reported petrol bomb attack.

Khomeini 'cheerful' after surgery

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 24, (Agencies): Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said today that Ayatollah Khomeini was well and cheerful a day after undergoing surgery to stop bleeding in his digestive tract, according to official Iranian press reports.

The medical team said Khomeini's heart, kidneys, respiration, blood pressure and pulse were all normal, said Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia.

Khomeini, 89, received close friends and

relatives in his hospital room this morning, the radio said.

Rafsanjani was among those visiting, according to the radio and the Islamic Republic News Agency, also monitored in Nicosia.

"He was in bed, and the doctors were around him. His health was very good," he said. "He was very cheerful. I asked him if he had any pain, and he replied that he has very little and that he is comfortable."

"He is feeling very well," Rafsanjani said.

The news agency said Khomeini is expected to leave hospital in a few days.

The statement did not say where the surgery was carried out, but the Iranian leader has undergone previous surgery at the heart hospital in Tehran, about two miles from his villa in Jamaran, a north Tehran suburb.

At a later public speech, Rafsanjani said, "God willing, we will see the imam for

long years, healthier and stronger, at the helm of the Islamic republic."

Khomeini is frequently referred to as the imam, or spiritual leader, in Iran.

President Ali Khamenei told the radio that the operation was "extremely successful."

The 20-member committee reviewing Iran's constitution voted unanimously yesterday to rename the parliament the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the official news agency said.

Intifada brings change: report

Israeli tactics criticised

LONDON, May 24, (KUNA): The Palestinian issue once again dominated 1989, moving the PLO and the superpowers to centre stage, according to an important report published here today.

In its "Strategic Survey 1988-1989," the prestigious International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) emphasised that dramatic changes in the Middle East were brought about by a year of the intifada.

There was also a marked reversal of trends in the Middle East during the same period, as the previous year's pre-occupation with the Iran-Iraq war ended as did the war.

The London-based institute also noted that Egypt has regained its position as a member of the Arab world, and for the first time in years of confronting Palestinian nationalism, Israel lost the initiative.

In Lebanon, which had been disintegrating slowly over ten years, the situation took a rapid turn for the worse in the autumn of 1988 and continued to collapse since that time, the institute said.

Referring again to the Palestinian uprising in its section on the Middle East, IISS said that the Palestinians successfully restricted their struggle to means that the world would applaud.

The day-to-day scenario of Palestinian-Israeli

clashes was made up largely of "stone-and-petrol-bomb-throwing incidents against the Israeli Army."

On the Israeli crackdown on the West Bank and Gaza, the document underlined that Tel Aviv resorted to heavy physical punishment, deterrence, and economic as well as administrative pressure against the Palestinians.

Israeli Army deployment was increased several fold and police were used in East Jerusalem, it added.

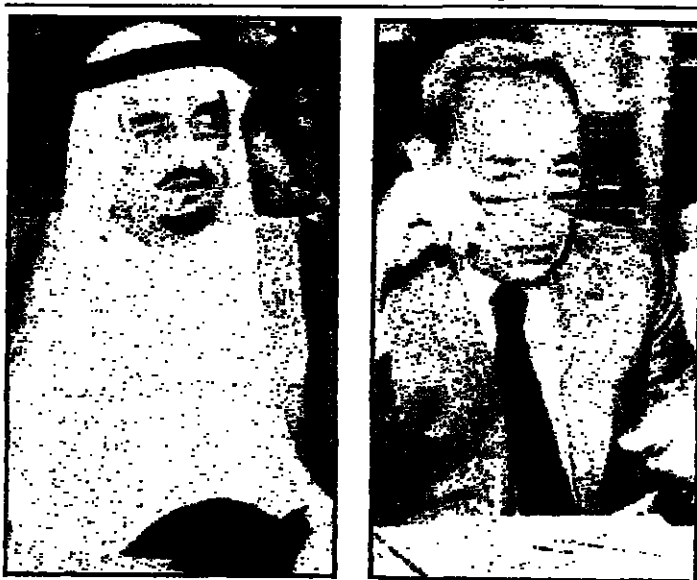
The institute, which is an independent research organisation, made it clear that Israeli tactics were especially damaging to its image among US Jews, whose support for Israel is considered vital.

IISS indicated that the mounting Palestinian struggle led to a deterioration in the Israeli Army's morale.

On the one hand hundreds of investigations were required against soldiers for violent misbehaviour in suppressing disturbances and on the other, small movement began among reservists who refused to serve in the occupied territories.

The survey also condemned Israel's use of plastic bullets against the Palestinian protesters.

When properly used the plastic bullet leaves scars and produces a higher daily rate of wounded and even dead.



King Fahd

King Hassan

PLO backed

(Continued from Page 1)

and opportunities."

Inter-Arab difference, Mubarak said, are "inevitable," but "disagreement should not lead to quarrel."

He called for a wider Arab role in international efforts for global peace and for closer co-operation with the 12-nation European Economic Community.

Turning to Lebanon, whose seat was vacant for the first time in the history of the Arab League, Mubarak said the crisis in that country "has truly become an immense problem, exhausting us and exhausting our consciences."

"We must all work for the one aim of overcoming this crisis before the fire burns us all."

He proposed as a start to back a six-man Arab panel that has been trying to defuse the Lebanese crisis so it could "arrange national reconciliation, ensure the withdrawal of all foreign forces and revive the constitutional bodies so they can carry out their duties."

On the Palestinian question, Mubarak openly supported anti-Israeli uprising that has raged in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since December 1987.

"We support the Palestinian people in its resistance of occupation and Israeli hegemony," he said.

He added that Egypt would back "whatever road the Palestinians find suitable to realise their aspirations."

The heads of state, already behind schedule, met briefly early this afternoon and decided to come back at 6 pm (1800 GMT) to start serious work on Lebanon and Palestine, the other item on the agenda.

The crisis in Lebanon, where more than 350 people have been killed since bitter civil war fighting flared again in March, was expected to dominate negotiations after foreign ministers came up with a preliminary compromise on Palestine.

Delegates from Jordan and the PLO said the moderate group favoured sending an Arab peacekeeping force to help or partially replace the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon under an Arab League mandate since 1976.

"The majority of the leaders are working for this," PLO spokesman Ahmed Abderrahman told Reuters.

Lebanon's Major-General Michel Aoun, whose mainly-Christian forces are fighting the Syrians and their Muslim and leftist militia allies, says a Syrian withdrawal is essential for any solution.

But one Gulf minister ruled out agreement on an Arab force. "It would not solve anything unless the crux of the problem was dealt with," he said.

Another proposal is to upgrade a team of Arab mediators to head-of-state level and make Algeria chairman in place of Kuwait, he added.

Six Arab foreign ministers led by Kuwait have tried in vain since January to reunite Lebanon, which has had to competing governments and no head of state since Parliament failed to elect a successor to former President Amin Gemayel last September.

On Palestine, a draft resolution gives broad support to the policies of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who has renounced terrorism and recognises Israel's right to exist.

It does not, however, explicitly endorse the decisions of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile whose meeting last November marked the start of the PLO strategy based on a two-state solution.

PLO officials have said they are confident a text favourable to them will go through. "The summit will give Arafat a mandate to pursue his diplomatic offensive. It means the Arabs are adopting the Palestinian strategy," said Ahmed Abderrahman.

Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, in a message to the summit, called for a united Arab position on the issue of a Middle East settlement. Tass news agency said today.

US President George Bush today urged the summit to endorse Arafat's peace overtures and not to block elections in Israeli-occupied territories.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

■ **Drug smugglers:** Egypt's Interior Minister Zaki Badr, said police would step up raids on drug smugglers and dealers in the next four months. His remarks, carried by Wednesday newspapers, came after Parliament on Tuesday approved in principle a draft law threatening heavy fines starting at \$48,000 and even the death penalty for smugglers, producers, pushers and users. (Reuters)

■ **Compensation:** Iran officially announced on Wednesday it has lodged a complaint against the United States with the World Court and demands compensation for the accidental downing of an Iranian passenger plane by a US warship in the Gulf last year. Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted an official at the Legal and International Services office of Prime Minister Mir-Hussein Musavi as saying Iran had also asked the International Court of Justice at The Hague to reconsider a decision made by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). (UPI)

■ **Prisoners freed:** Iran on Wednesday freed a further batch of 30 sick and wounded Iraqi prisoners of war, but nine POWs sought political asylum in Iran and a tenth died as he was being freed, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported. The agency also said 15 prisoners from Sudan, Tunisia and Somalia who fought on the side of Iraq during the 8-year Gulf war would also be released. (UPI)

■ **Iran rejected:** Iran, with only nine votes, was rejected in its bid on Tuesday to join the UN Commission on Human Rights, while Iraq won entry by 28 votes. Abdul Hamid Ghodse of Iran received seven votes and was defeated in his bid for membership of the International Narcotics Control Board. (Reuters)

■ **Archbishop freed:** Sudanese rebels said on Wednesday they had freed a Roman Catholic archbishop and three priests held captive since late February. Rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) commander Lam Akol said Paride Taban, archbishop of the southern Sudan town of Torit, returned to his home in the morning and was now free to resume his ministry. (Reuters)

■ **Publicly hanged:** Iran Tuesday publicly hanged another 10 people in four cities, after Islamic Revolutionary Courts convicted them of trafficking in narcotic drugs. Tehran Radio monitored in Athens said the 10 were "condemned to death by order of Islamic Revolutionary Courts in the cities of Korveh, Zahedan, Kerman and Hamedan, and hanged by the ropes of punishment in the presence of the people." (UPI)

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Ministerial visit

Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah Tuesday visited the southern Al Zour power station where he was briefed on the progress of work. The minister urged the management and workers to be vigilant in order to avoid mistakes. Rqobah later visited the Shuiba power station.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appreciation party

KUWAIT, May 24, (KUNA): The Ministry of Public Health Tuesday honoured the participants in the International Health Day and Kuwait's Health Week.

In a party held at the Sheraton Hotel, the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Dr Ali Al Saif presented the participants with tokens and certificates of appreciation.

Osaimi returns

KUWAIT, May 24, (KUNA): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saad Al Osaimi returned home Tuesday after having chaired Kuwait's delegation to the co-ordination bureau meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Harare, Zimbabwe, at the ministerial level.

Osaimi, afterwards, paid a brief visit to the UK where he met with his British counterpart William Waldegrave.

Cultural lectures

MINISTER of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khaled Ahmed Al Jasser has said that his ministry will be undertaking an annual cultural programme, starting in early June, which will include lectures to be delivered by Muslim scholars at universities, youth clubs and over the radio and television.

Ministry denial

THE Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Dr Nael Al Naqeeb has denied that the Soviet Eye Hospital Ship (floating hospital) will visit Kuwait soon.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassah, Dr Naqeeb said that no arrangement in this connection has been made by the ministry.

WEATHER

HOT summer weather with light to north-westerly wind changes gradually to light south-easterly wind. State of sea: Slight to moderate. High water: 4:00 am, 1:32 pm. Low water: 8:31 am, 9:35 pm. Sunrise: 4:51 am. Sunset: 6:39 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 46°C (115°F). Ahmadi: 41°C (106°F). Faliha: 43°C (109°F). Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 26°C (79°F). Ahmadi: 30°C (86°F). Faliha: 32°C (90°F). Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 46°C (115°F). Ahmadi: 42°C (108°F). Faliha: 43°C (109°F). Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 22 per cent. Ahmadi: 43 per cent.

First instalment for eye hospital paid

ISLAMABAD, May 24, (KUNA): A delegation from a Kuwaiti social welfare organisation presented a cheque of rupees five million to President Ghulam Ishaque yesterday as the first instalment from the organisation for Al Shifa Trust, a local social welfare institution engaged in prevention and cure of blindness in Pakistan.

The delegation was led by President of 'Lajna Al Dawu Al Islamia' Kuwait Adnan Al Jassar and included among others Kuwaiti Ambassador in Pakistan Qasim Omar Al Yaqout.

Jassar told the Pakistan President that

this was the first instalment of Lajna's total commitment of rupees 10 million for the Al Shifa Trust.

Thanking the Kuwaiti delegation for the donation President Ishaque said the Kuwaiti donation would significantly contribute towards the successful completion of the 300-bed Al Shifa Trust eye hospital project in the Pakistani capital. He hoped that the noble example set by the Kuwaiti organisation would be followed by others also.

According to the president nearly three million people in Pakistan suffer from different eye diseases and providing them

with proper medical treatment is a humanitarian duty.

The presentation ceremony which was held at the president's house also included some Pakistani philanthropist who also handed over cheques of different but lesser amounts to the president for the Al Shifa Trust.

Meanwhile, a delegation grouping 40 representatives from the African Muslim Committee will leave for Nairobi, Kenya, Wednesday to take part in a conference for all African Muslim Committee offices on the African continent from May 25-28, it was announced here Wednesday.

A press statement issued here today by the committee, said that the conference will be under the auspices of Kenyan President Daniel T. arap Moi; and will discuss developing African rural areas.

The conference will discuss major problems facing the Islamic (dawa) call in Africa and ways of overcoming them. The African Muslim Committee, which is based in Kuwait, has constructed 600 mosques, takes care of 6,500 orphans and supervises 38 hospitals and clinics in addition to other projects.

The Muslim committee held its first conference last year in Malawi.

Organisation good

Computer bookings for haj

THE preparations for pilgrimage started earlier this year compared to previous ones and the pilgrims names have been registered with the relevant authorities.

To highlight the pilgrimage registration procedures, a local daily interviewed the organisers of convoys.

Mohammed Abdurahman said that the owners of the pilgrimage convoys had this year introduced a computer service to organise the reservation process, noting that all the necessary data pertaining to each convoy's pilgrims will be computerised.

He added that the pilgrims will be provided with the necessary brochures and guidebooks containing the necessary information about the holy shrines and the pilgrimage rituals and how they are performed.

He praised the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' decision that Al Aziziyah area will be a base for the Kuwait pilgrimage convoys, describing this area as a developed one and provided with the necessary facilities.

He added that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs had no spared efforts towards meeting the convoys owners' requests pointing out that each convoy was allowed to register only 300 pilgrims.

Meanwhile, Abdurahman called on the Ministry of Public Health to provide each convoy with one male physician and one female physician to be at the disposal of the convoy, adding that this will help the Kuwaiti medical mission.

He thanked the Ministry of Interior for the facilities provided, particularly at the border points.

Mohammed Al Ajeel has called on pilgrims to register their names with the convoys as early as possible and to make sure that their passports and residences are valid.

He complained that some pilgrims liked to stay longer at Madina and this was in conflict with the convoy programme.

He said that all the buses of his convoy were air-conditioned and each pilgrim was charged only KD250, which included all the services and accommodation in Saudi Arabia.



Co-operation rewarded

Two Kuwaitis identified as Mubarak Abdulla Al Adwani and Mishref Okab were presented with commemorative gifts on Tuesday by the Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah (right) in appreciation of their co-operation with security forces in seizing a number of infiltrators near the Kuwaiti coast. The public relations department of the Interior Ministry reported.

Mushroom grower awarded prize

Special equipment used

A LOCAL daily has interviewed Hussein Ali Al Qattan, holder of the Golden Shield prize for his contribution to the progress of agriculture in the country who stressed the need for enforcing a well-studied strategy on national food security while keeping an eye on the possible technological involvement in this area.

He told his interviewer that the prize was given to him by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) in appreciation for the success of his mushroom agricultural project.

He said that special incubation equipment was used to counteract the unfavourable weather conditions and create the

right habitat for this plant to grow, using suitable fertilisers and good scientific expertise and farming know-how.

He added that the project cost including operation exceeded KD 250,000.000 but we found no sponsor for this project nor were we offered facilities for marketing our products.

Serving priorities

Bank Strategy Seminar opens today

THIRTY senior officers of Kuwait Finance House are convening today at the SAS Hotel for a one-week Bank Strategy Seminar. The group includes the General Manager, Mr Adnan Al Bahar, the company's assistant managers, and senior executives of the subsidiary of KFH in Turkey.

The seminar is a continuation of the determined management and strategy development effort of Kuwait Finance House. It is organised by Dr Ulrich Wichmann, a former Harvard Business School professor and president of UNWINS S.A., an international consulting group based in Switzerland.

"The market environment for banks in general and for Kuwait in particular is changing rapidly," observes Wichmann.

"The intent of the Kuwaiti government seems to be to activate the private sector and to have the

country's financial institutions play a larger role in foreign markets. Both initiatives open opportunities, which a bank can, however, only pursue profitably if it has a sound and explicit strategy. Senior management of Kuwait Finance House is to be commended for the time and energy they take to develop strategies which both maximise the company's particular strengths as an Islamic institution and serve the priorities of the country."

The Bank Strategy Seminar is certainly not a leisurely social gathering. It moves rapidly and puts high intellectual demands on its participants. The format includes a proven combination of learning methods: BASIS, the competitive bank simulation, case discussions led by Dr Wichmann, and workshops on specific strategy issues facing Kuwait Finance House.

Foreign calls

Telephone deadline

THE grace period, for telephone subscribers in the private sector, to provide monetary guarantees to replace written guarantees will expire on Friday, according to a senior official at the communications ministry official.

Those failing to comply with the deadline will have their foreign call facility disconnected, Abul Aziz Al Ayoub, undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Communications was quoted as saying.

The ministry has formed a working team to co-ordinate with subscribers to either opt for the overseas call service against a cash deposit or to restrict services to local calls, the official said.

Egypt Air welcomed to AATE

TUNIS, May 24, (KUNA): Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) board chairman and Managing Director yesterday hailed the 22nd session of the Air Transport Association's decision to restore Egypt's membership in the federation.

Al Mishari in an interview with KUNA said that the decision of the return of Egypt Air to its full membership was taken unanimously.

Emirates Airways company was also recognised last night as a new member.

The Kuwaiti official said the recent session centered on a draft project to establish an Arab company to finance the purchase and chartering of aircraft with a capital of \$200 million to be paid equally between Arab carrier companies and Arab financial establishments.

In this respect a meeting will be held next July between the air carrier companies and Arab and Islamic banks which will contribute in the project.

The official further said that KAC has proposed that Kuwait be the temporary headquarters of the company.

The establishment of such a company aims at ensuring the charter of aircraft available in Arab airways companies and financing joint Arab projects.

The company also aims at reducing the expenses the Arab airways are bearing nowadays, he went on.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dr. K. T. B. MENON

acknowledges the condolence messages received from various friends and relatives in his recent bereavement and

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Sea transport trade making comeback

THE board of directors of the United Arab Shipping Company Tuesday held its seventh meeting under the chairmanship of the board chairman Abdul Aziz Hussein Sallat to discuss the company's quarterly report for 1989.

Sallat said that the company had endeavoured to provide high sea transport protection, while keeping tariffs under control, and that for this reason the company operated its fleet along regular routes catering mainly to the existing regional commercial exchange relations and also

international good-will connections.

He added that the company managed over the past tension-packed eight years during the Iraq-Iran war to operate top-level services, and was successful in exerting additional efforts to widen the scope of its services amidst the critical situation in the Gulf.

He pointed out that now that the war has subsided, the sea transport market has started to flourish steadily and tariffs to increase along with all shipping companies operating in the region.

He added that the company's 14 container vessels and 15 cargo ships were optimally operated during the war, while leasing 17 other cargo-ships, in a bid to continue functioning at the best possible level under the war conditions.

He expressed his hope that vital contributions would be made to support the services of this sector by the private companies as a combined effort to step up the national economy and protect national resources against waste and draining of resources.

He pointed out that the company managed during 1988 to make a number of decisions in the light of the prevailing stability intended to facilitate measures and reconsider policies following the cessation of war.

Similar organisational arrangements were initiated to further utilise the war experience operations and decisions were made to organise training courses for the company staff to be followed by evaluation of performance.



Abdul Aziz Sallat

Europe most popular spot

Travel season starting

THE travel season is almost here and travel and tourist offices are being kept very busy. A local daily interviewed a number of sales officers and residents to highlight their opinions, problems and proposals.

A large majority of travel agents stressed that the boost and stagnation of tourism totally depends on services presented by travel companies to customers.

They pointed out that the actual boost of sales starts after the end of summer and spring examinations at schools. Other travel agents said that most of the travellers for medical treatment are Kuwaitis.

Travellers said that it is necessary that the Civil Aviation Authority unifies discount rates to protect customers.

Most travellers agreed that decreasing the price of tickets, and arriving directly at their destination without having transit stops is very important to all travellers. They added that personal contacts at travel agents may help in getting better deals on ticket prices.

Others stressed that individual travel is far smoother than group journeys.

One of the salesmen and tickets reservation officers, Mohammad Najid said that travel sales are not consistent, but change throughout the season. He added that during the last year most travellers preferred travelling to European countries such as Germany, "Rome" and "Greece". He expected that Britain will take the top place in popularity this season, followed by "Spain". He described Egypt was in constant demand by travellers, but added that he faces many problems with Cairo bookings

because most travellers going to Egypt confirm reservations a long time before their travel causing great difficulties.

Contacts He pointed out that they give many facilities to loyal customers and added that a personal contact between a sales officer and a customer could create many extra facilities.

He stressed that the job of ticket booking requires a lot of patience, but is very profitable. He said group travelling is not easy as it requires a lot of effort to organise it between the countries they wish to visit.

But he pointed out that group travel gives travellers many extra facilities. It provides travellers more comfort, because everything is in order to the journey. Group travelling on the other hand gives customers a good idea about the services provided by the company and creates a good impression.

Adnan Ahmad Saif, one of the customers said that he prefers individual travel because they run smoother and are free of complications. He pointed out that travellers may face problems with pre-reservations and that they also face problems at the time of the departure.

Mishal Abu Al Zulf of the manager of the travel companies said that most travellers tend to ask about ticket prices and destinations a long time prior to their reservations.

He added that most companies witness a boom in sales after the end of examinations at schools, particularly after spring and summer examinations. He said that the rest of the year is considered very stagnant to all travel agencies.



German Week opens

Minister of State for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi on Tuesday opened the German Week exhibition at the Regency Palace Hotel. More than 25 German companies are taking part in the exhibition, showing a wide variety of products ranging from automobiles to electronic items and handicrafts. The exhibition is part of the German Week celebrations that coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Constitution Day. It is open daily, until May 27. Above: German Ambassador Dr. Bernd Wulffen seen with Al Mazidi and other guests after the opening.

A vital service for some

Matchmakers still in demand

MANY traditional professions disappeared a long time ago, but surprisingly, the profession of the matchmaker still exists and is required by many women.

In the past matchmakers were the ones responsible for choosing the right groom for a girl, therefore, mothers were very interested in improving their relations with matchmakers by giving them money and gifts when choosing the right person for their daughters.

Nowadays, the matchmaker profession has declined dramatically due to the fact that life-age general has changed and people's relations with others are different than before. Most of those who are interested in getting married choose their own life partners, depending on personal acquaintance or through parents and friends. Some may seek a partner by following up advertisements in the press, but many hoped that computers would replace this method, the

same way as Western countries. Um Al Khair confirmed that the profession of matchmaking still exists and active. She pointed out that she still practices this profession, but in a very small way, and in strict confidence.

Um Al Khair said that she doesn't like to embarrass people and refuses to advertise her job. She described her profession as very humane and that it doesn't require advertising. She refused to reveal her true name and pointed out that it is enough that people know her nickname.

She said that Um Al Khair means "the woman who seeks good for other people and ensures a happy marriage."

She described the matchmaker method as very different from getting married through family friends and relatives, but added that the situation is different now and that this method is better than referring to newspapers or computers.

Um Al Khair condemned advertising and said that advertisements distort the facts.

She said that matchmaking is done with the knowledge of both the groom's family and the bride's family, and with their presence through a family meeting. She added that her role concentrates on accomplishing acquaintance among families.

She said that matchmaking was the only way to achieve marriages in the past, and that it still happens in farming towns in some Arab countries such as Egypt and Syria. "Nowadays, matchmaking is done according to details provided by the young women or men and doesn't only depend on looking at photographs."

She pointed out that she never asks for a fee, but she expected a reward of money or even clothes from parents, particularly mothers.

Malayalee concert

Old favourites on stage

WELL-KNOWN Malayalam story-teller Ramla Begum and mappilappattu singer M.A. Azeez will team up with young and upcoming singers Noushad and Ms Srija for a concert in Kuwait on June 9 at Jleeb Al Shiyokh Cinema.

Both Ramla Begum and Azeez reigned supreme in their respective fields in the late 1960s and their repertoire will include hits of yesteryears.

Ramla Begum overcame strong family and community opposition to become the most sought after artist in her profession. In the last three decades, she has carved a niche for herself in Kerala music circles. Making her debut in the early sixties, when Muslim women were not allowed to perform on stage, Ramla sang her way to the top of the story telling profession. M.A. Azeez, a "mappilappattu" singer, has several hits to his credit.

Noushad, made a promising start with two of his film songs in Kalimulhikal and Kudiyattam. Though he suffered paralysis, he overcame odds to bounce back as a playback for the hit film "1921", which was recently entered as India's entry at the Berlin Film Festival. Srija, a teen-age singer from Cochin, belongs to the Harijari group. The group has given successful performances in the UAE and Bahrain during the Eid holidays.

The Kuwait show will be held in Jleeb Al Shiyokh Cinema. Tickets are priced at KD 3 and KD 2 to enable a large number of people to attend, according to a member of the organising committee.

Info leak plugged

KUWAIT'S Central Bank in a co-ordinate move with Kuwait Stock Exchange is working towards preventing leakage of restricted information relating to a change in the activities of the Kuwait Real Estate Bank.

In a move designed to prevent misuse of any confidential information, the management of the Stock Exchange suspended trading of shares of the Kuwait Real Estate Bank for one hour last Tuesday. During this period, the Central Bank issued a statement to the effect that it was studying the feasibility of amending the charter of the Real Estate Bank.

Kuwaitis keen on career in aviation

A LOCAL daily interviewed a number of board members at the Kuwaiti Pilots and Aviation Engineers Society to highlight the society's activities and duties.

They emphasised the importance of their job and stressed the part they play in the field of information regarding this vital utility.

They said that the Kuwaiti youths are more interested into joining the aviation field than in the past. They pointed out that Kuwaitis form 98 per cent of the co-pilots and fifty per cent of the aviation engineers at Kuwait Airways Corporation.

They urged other colleagues to join the society to take part in the efforts made towards serving and protecting aviation workers.

They said that the society members have many ambitious projects which will be achieved soon. The deputy board chairman of the Pilots and Aviation Engineers Society, Abdul Hameed Al Mudhaf said these future plans will ensure members have better services.

The society's secretary general, Salem Al Faraj said that giving information to travellers is an expensive operation. He added that the society pays nearly 50 per cent of costs of information and that the other half is paid by KAC.

He added that the Ministry of Information along with other media authorities should participate in this programme which is very crucial. Hamad Al Bejan said that the KAC building faces a shortage of parking spaces. He expressed the society's willingness to hear any suggestions and views of members.

The society plays an important part in resolving problems of aviation students trainees abroad, he added.

No power cuts

UNDERSECRETARY of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Abdullah Mohammad Al Munaiyes has ruled out any intention of the ministry's part to enforce a programmed systematic power cuts in various areas of the country.

He said that this was out of question since the country's power resources suffered no shortages.

Plenty of land available for farms

THE director of the Botanic Resources Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries, Jassem Al Bader has said that a recent survey of Kuwaiti lands has shown that more than 81.5 million donums in different areas of Kuwait can be used for agriculture.

He added that the detailed survey showed that about 43.5 hectares are considered arable

lands and the authority has surveyed new areas in order to distribute them as agricultural land allotments to Kuwaiti farmers.

Bader pointed out that the state can offer more quantities of water than required for irrigation in the coming agricultural plan through desalination and by using new scientific methods such as solar energy and nuclear energy.

There are also underground wells at farms in Abdali and Wafra which produce about 49 million gallons a day.

He added that brackish water in Sulabiya area can also be used for irrigation purposes. Only 20 million gallons of this water are used for irrigating public gardens, roads and house gardens. Distilled water is also used in irrigation specially in greenhouses.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Progress in health

BAHRAIN has come a long way in the advancement of primary health care during the last decade since the government launched a comprehensive development plan for health services in 1968 in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), according to a top health official.

Dr Rashid Fulayyil, undersecretary at the Ministry of Health, highlighted Bahrain's progress in the primary health in a key note address or the opening day of the first Academic Primary Health Care Conference, Sunday. The conference, the first of its kind to be held in Bahrain, was organised by the Bahrain Medical Society and the Amin Academy of Medical Specialists of Bahrain under the patronage of the Minister of Education, Dr Ali Fakhr.

About 200 delegates attended the two-day conference including 20 eminent doctors from Britain, Ireland, China, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Presenting his paper entitled "Primary Health Care in Focus" Dr Fulayyil said that organisations of medical care in the world was first initiated in the Islamic world around the eighth century, while it began in the Western world only in the mid-nineteenth century.

He stressed that the principal concern in medical care is the individual, but unfortunately "institutionalised medical care" deals more with the disease, thereby neglecting the patient. In this context he added that the patient has the right to be treated with the highest ethical and clinical standards and called for the creation of special breed of general practitioner.

The undersecretary highlighted the importance of primary care in the medical profession as it deals not only with strictly medical aspects of the patient, but also his or her social, economical and psychological details. In this respect, he added, primary care is concerned about giving advice to a patient for preventive or therapeutic purposes by a physician. The family plays an important role under this plan of long term dimension in the treatment of the person concerned, he said.

Commenting on the experience of primary care in Bahrain, Dr Fulayyil said Bahrain's first doctor was appointed in 1925 in the days of the pearl industry. Primary care was established in the island with the initiative of the government, he added.

Dr Fulayyil said since 1979 the Ministry of Health adopted the concept of primary health care and elevated its staff members on equal footing to the staff of secondary care.

"Thanks to this foresighted approach young Bahrainis have been encouraged to take up the primary health care specially as a career. Today about 50 per cent consultancy and 85 per cent administrative posts are occupied by Bahrainis, commented Dr Fulayyil.

According to the undersecretary, Bahrain today boasts of 19 health centres serving about 95-99 per cent of the population at present. By 1993 another four centres will be added to cater for growing population. Primary health centres are within easy walking distance for between 85-90 per cent of the population, he added, while emphasising the considerable achievements made by the country in this field.

Dr Fulayyil warned about the dangers of total dependence on institutionalised medical practice by patients. While quoting Ivan Illich, he said "The medical establishment has become a major threat to health. Dependence on professional health affects all social relations."

He said easy availability of specialists, modern sophisticated medical treatment and new drugs in great number has made the patient to lose the power to heal himself, but instead makes him become increasingly dependent on the professional.

Dr Fulayyil called for the importance for the need of more family medicine specialists to emphasise the development of primary health care. He said the affiliated Family Physician Programme in Bahrain has been adopted by the Arab Board Council on family and community medicine to be the first exemplary programme for family medicine training.

Finally the undersecretary of Bahrain's Ministry of Health quoted from the Holy Quran and Hadith which shows that Islam in particular supports primary health care.

The conference, besides having a plenary session and an academic session, held five workshops covering topics like sport medicine, preventive medicine, public health, emergency medicine and community services. An exhibition was being held simultaneously with the conference of items on medicine from pharmaceutical companies, computer firms and book shops relating to health care.



One of the groups on opening night

Jukebox a big hit

SPECIAL lighting effects, smoke and 30 dancers gave a real top of the pops atmosphere on the opening night of Jukebox 5 at Salmiya Cinema on Tuesday.

The show, featuring music from the 50s to the present was received enthusiastically by the audience. The six-member band's music was tight.

Seventeen year old choreographer Nasch Hameed gave a fine performance as "Smoochy Criminal," a Michael Jackson role. Other outstanding singers were June Woolstone with her rendering of Whitney Houston's "One Moment in Time," Mohammad Abuljebain and Tim Birchfield brought the audience to their feet with a duet "Pour Some Sugar on Me."

Noteworthy among the dancers were Jumana Khodr, dancing to "Lost in Your Eyes" and Katalin Dunay, dancing to "Kiss." Schirapthi Yagarajah and Tony Morais impressed with a number entitled "She Wants to Dance with Me." Tickets are still available for the 5 pm and 8 pm shows (tonight) on May 25.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHAT sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul — Joseph Addison, English statesman-writer (1672-1719).

Mexico's debt keeps growing

By Brook Larmer

UNTIL two months ago, steelworker Guillermo Bernal thought he was safe from the most destructive blows of Mexico's \$107-billion foreign debt.

Like the 20,000 other employees at Monclova's huge state-owned steel mill, Altos Hornos de Mexico, the 37-year-old welder had little fear of losing his \$8-a-day job. It was, he thought, guaranteed by the government.

But such "guarantees" are gone.

Strapped by debt-service payments that have sapped nearly 70 per cent of public spending over the past six years, the Mexican government has been pushed to make a painful economic overhaul that is reaching even this insulated desert town. Nearly 4,500 steelworkers at Altos Hornos Plant I — the ancient mill Bernal calls "home" — are scheduled to be laid off soon under a "modernization" plan designed to curb state spending and make the plant competitive again.

Today, even as foreign bankers and Mexican officials begin haggling over the future of the debt 3,000 miles away in New York, Bernal quietly contemplates how he may become the debt's next victim.

"The situation is very critical," he says, adjusting his "Coca-Cola" emblazoned hat as he rails against the government's misuse of huge loans in the oil-rich days of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"Look at us," he says, nodding toward a group of unemployed friends in the main plaza here. "The government can't create jobs. It has stopped educating our kids. It isn't giving health care to our old folks... If Mexico had all this money, shouldn't we be better off?"

It's a question that troubles millions of poor Mexicans. For instead of watching their country develop, they saw plunging oil prices, rampant inflation, and public corruption turn those loans into a leaden albatross that has dragged down their living standards to levels of the mid-60s.

"This deterioration has meant large numbers of people — even those who had expected to improve their standards — are sinking very rapidly," says political scientist Adolfo Aguilar Zinser. "In terms of social impact, two decades of development have been lost."

Ever since foreign banks revealed the depth of the debt crisis by shutting off new Latin loans in 1982, Mexico has sacrificed its growth to pay off the debt.

Since that year, the government has shelled out \$56 billion more than it has received in the new assistance — an amount equal to 6 per cent of its gross national product. That's not counting the estimated \$40 billion to \$50 billion in private capital flight. And the debt keeps growing.

American economist James Henry compares the process to a "huge negative Marshall plan." And indeed, the deprivation of funds has had devastating effects.

Full-time jobs are now a mere fantasy for half of all Mexicans. Over the past six years, more than half of the 5 million young people who entered the labour market couldn't find employment.

Even for those fortunate enough to have jobs, the cumulative effect of inflation has eroded the average salary, cutting its real value by half since 1982. (Inflation today is about 20 per cent.)

Schools, hospitals, roads, and communications systems have deteriorated rapidly with their trimmed budgets. Even more troubling: Half of Mexican children quit before finishing primary school to earn money for their families; and more than half the children are malnourished.

Debt-service payments themselves have not destroyed Mexico, analysts agree. Rather, they have forced the country to adopt an austerity programme that has chipped away at its natural "immune" system, leaving both government and the people more vulnerable to external shocks.

With no access to fresh foreign credit, for example, Mexico was hit doubly hard by the plunge in oil prices in 1986, when the cost of a barrel of oil went from \$28 to \$12 in the space of three months. Likewise, with only the bare threads of a social safety net still remaining, the living conditions of most Mexicans slide downward more rapidly.

"The debt has a tremendous impact on living conditions because of the constraints and rigidity it imposes on the economy," says political scientist Zinser.

To streamline the economy and prepare it for future growth, policymakers have cancelled development projects, slashed budgets, depressed wages, and sold off "modernized" inefficient state-run industries. The aim: to slice off the "fat" that made Mexico so ripe for the debt crisis.

Economists now fear, however, that the austerity programme has cut too deeply, pushing Mexicans so far into poverty that economic recovery will be difficult even if the debt burden is lifted.

"When the crisis started in 1982, it was clear that Mexico was living beyond its means," says debt expert and government consultant Fausto Alzati. "We've cut off all the fat. Now we're getting to the point where the cuts are being made on things that will impinge on the economy's ability to grow in the future."

He adds: "There's nothing more to cut — except the bone."

Back at the steel mills in Monclova, Altos Hornos spokesmen explain that the 4,500 lay-offs — along with the plant's modernization — are needed to prevent a complete shutdown, as happened two years ago to a large factory in nearby Monterrey.

"The situation, without being overly dramatic, has brought us to a crossroads," plant director Eugenio Laris Alariz said recently. "Either we modernize or we disappear."

The two-phase modernization project, funded by a \$700 million loan offered jointly by the World Bank and the Japanese Export-Import Bank, reflects the kind of economic "restructuring" favoured by new President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor Publishing Society.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1657 — France's King Louis XIV formally put forward his name as candidate for Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1744 — Austrian troops invade Alsace in France.
- 1819 — Revolt begins in Rio de la Plata, Argentina, against Joseph Bonaparte's regime.
- 1846 — Louis Napoleon escapes to London from imprisonment in Ham, France.
- 1914 — Britain's House of Commons passes Irish Home Rule bill.
- 1915 — China accepts Japanese ultimatum regarding rights in Shantung and leases in Manchuria.
- 1923 — Independence of trans-Jordan under Amir Abdullah is proclaimed.
- 1963 — Leaders of six African nations, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, form Organisation of African Unity.
- 1969 — Parliamentary government in Sudan is overthrown in bloodless coup and Major-General Jafaar Numeiry heads new military regime.
- 1970 — United States places first of its MIRV missiles in underground silos at Air Force base in North Dakota.
- 1979 — American airlines DC-10 loses an engine and nosedives into ground at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, killing all 272 people aboard in US aviation history's worst disaster.
- 1983 — Nile River ferry catches fire and sinks in southern Egypt, leaving 194 people dead and 68 missing.
- 1984 — Senior leader Deng Xiaoping says China will station troops in Hong Kong after recovering sovereignty over the capitalist British colony in 1997.
- 1985 — His Highness the Amir of Kuwait escapes assassination attempt by terrorists detonate a bomb in his motorcade. Extremist Jihad Islami Organisation claims responsibility.
- 1988 — Israeli Army imposes curfews confining 200,000 Arabs as PLO-mandated general strike shuts down commerce and transportation in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Scandals and unfulfilled pledges hamper re-election chances

Papandreou battling for political survival

By Patrick Quinn

PREMIER Andreas Papandreou, swept into power eight years ago promising radical change, is battling for his political survival.

As he prepares for elections June 18, the 70-year-old leader is beset by allegations of widespread corruption among senior members of his ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) and accusations that he failed to implement many of the reforms he espoused when first elected in 1981.

But friends and foes alike say Papandreou is far from beaten, still retaining the oratorical flair and personal appeal that gave him 48 per cent of the popular vote in 1981 and 46 per cent in 1985.

Papandreou, a former US Citizen who has accused the United States of trying to undermine his political career, is banking on support from Greece's rural areas to give him the boost he needs to make up lost ground. His socialist policies have had more success in the countryside than in the cities.

"Socialism — democracy, patriotism — peace these were the goals of the popular movement in our country. Pasok continues this popular movement today. Our enemy is not the left, it is the right," Papandreou told thousands of supporters at a recent rally in the working-class suburb of Peristeri.

But opposition parties claim Papandreou has ignored many of the accusations against him and tried instead to polarize the electorate. To attract support from leftist voters, he has promised to submit an agreement on the future of four US military bases here to a national referendum. Negotiations on the bases have been postponed until after next month's elections.

Both parties lost much of their traditional support when Pasok first came to power espousing a heady mixture of socialist reform and rabid anti-Americanism. But economic problems and a see-sawing foreign policy have



Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

"He wants to keep the people who are leaving his ranks, people who are progressive and left-wing as well as leftist voters," said Harilaos Florakis, leader of the Soviet-oriented Greek Communist Party.

Florakis has joined forces with the Eurocommunist Greek left to form the left coalition, which they hope will draw enough disaffected socialists to play an important role in the balloting.

Both parties lost much of their traditional support when Pasok first came to power espousing a heady mixture of socialist reform and rabid anti-Americanism.

But economic problems and a see-sawing foreign policy have

eroded popular support for the socialists.

Greece's response to international terrorism also has angered some of the country's NATO allies. Last December, the government freed and put on a plane to Libya a Palestinian wanted to have killed a child. There also have been repeated delays in extraditing another suspected terrorist to the United States.

Allegations of involvement in a multimillion-dollar scandal surrounding fugitive Greek banker George Koskotas and a controversial affair with a woman half his age have tested the premier's appeal.

Newspapers have jumped on

the affair with Dimitra Liani, 35. Nude pictures of the former airline hostess regularly appear on tabloid front pages.

"I knew this would have a cost. But it was not a passing thing, it was a relationship, it was a way of life," he recently told a Greek newspaper in a rare interview.

Koskotas fled in November after being indicted in a 200-million-dollar fraud, forgery and embezzlement scandal.

The chairman of the Bank of Crete, arrested in the United States and jailed pending an extradition hearing, has alleged that Papandreou and other senior Socialist officials were given

millions of dollars in payoffs and authorized the looting of his bank.

Papandreou, in turn, has accused the CIA and the "American establishment" of trying to overthrow his political demise. Papandreou was a US citizen for 20 years and taught economics at American universities.

The main conservative opposition, New Democracy Party, led by longtime Papandreou rival Constantine Mitsotakis, has been hammering away at the government's handling of the Koskotas scandal since it first surfaced more than eight months ago. Two leftist

Greek terrorist organizations have called on voters to boycott the elections or cast invalid ballots to protest the scandal.

Although New Democracy leads Pasok by about 7 percentage points in recent public opinion polls and is favoured to win a majority in the 300-member, single-chamber parliament, political analysts feel Mitsotakis' lack of charisma may help Pasok in the elections.

It stems from Mitsotakis' failure to beat Papandreou in the 1985 elections and his alleged involvement in a series of political intrigues in the mid-1960s that socialists claim paved the way for the 1967-74 military dictatorship.

Greece's external debt reached nearly 18 billion dollars and inflation was running at 14 per cent at the end of 1988, triple the European common market average.

But while Papandreou's generous allowances to farmers and the construction of hospitals in remote provinces strained the treasury, they are expected to help the socialists.

"We are going into these elections with two Greeces. The Greece of the provinces and the Greece of the large urban areas," respected Athens columnist Panos Loukakos wrote recently.

The government's failure to deliver on a promise to modernize the health and education systems could hurt Papandreou in Athens, home to nearly half of Greece's 10 million residents.

Papandreou's handling of foreign affairs has been laced with a pragmatic streak that has embittered some allies but not completely alienated them.

He has not carried out campaign pledges calling for the removal of US bases from Greece, along with withdrawal from NATO and the EEC in 1983. Papandreou signed a five-year accord to keep four US military installations here.

NATO seeks to mend rift

By Sally Jacobsen

ONE week before the NATO summit begins, officials are still scrambling to mend a rift between the United States and many of its European allies over short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

The disagreement may not be completely settled by the time US President George Bush and other alliance leaders gather on May 29-30 in Brussels to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The reassuring words by Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand suggest the issue won't be allowed to disrupt the summit — at least on the surface.

It's a much bigger issue in Europe, where feelings on European-based nuclear weapons run sharp and deep, than in the United States.

Even in Europe, however, one diplomat, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said, "there will be something to paper over the differences so we can emerge reasonably united from the summit."

Richard Fieldhouse, a research fellow at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden, said the issue has become "too steamed up," making it difficult to find a solution.

"There's a bit too much enmity... There's a lot of political manoeuvring and a lot of bad blood politically," he said.

But Hans Binnendijk, director of studies for International Institute for Strategic Studies, predicted a way would be found to narrow the split in time for the anniversary gathering.

"It is clear that (Germany) and the United States don't want to see this thing blow up at the summit," he said.

Over the weekend, Bush said the dispute was a "vexing question" with differing opinions by "strong-willed people from strong countries."

However, he also said, "I think great progress has been made," and "I think that we could well have this resolved before the summit."

Mitterrand, after meeting with Bush, said, "On this problem, like on other problems, at the outset people have diverging views, differing opinions. But the important thing is to come to a meeting of the minds and to achieve a common answer. And this has always been the case in the alliance."

Dispute

The dispute stems from a push by the United States and Britain to replace the aging Lance surface-to-surface nuclear missile with a new, more powerful weapon.

The arms campaign has become increasingly unpopular in many European countries, upbeat about the friendlier moves by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and reluctant to do anything to cool the warmer East-West climate.

"Continental Europeans are really not interested in another round of nuclear modernisation," said Fieldhouse.

Politicians, he said, will have "a hard time trying to convince the public it's necessary."

The United States had hoped for a strong signal of support from the allies for the Lance modernisation programme. But that now appears highly unlikely.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, worried about the survival of his centre-right government, wants to delay a decision on production of the new missile until 1991 or 1992 — after important elections next year in Germany.

Moreover, his government unexpectedly demanded that the alliance enter into early negotiations with the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact to reduce short-range, or theatre nuclear weapons in Europe.

The United States and Britain have strongly opposed that, arguing the emphasis should be on East-West bargaining to slash conventional, or non-nuclear, arms in Europe.

US and British officials worry that opening discussions on reducing short-range nuclear weapons would inevitably lead to removal of all those forces from Europe.

NATO contends it maintains a nuclear stockpile as a deterrent to balance the enormous superiority the East has built up in conventional arms.

Germany has gained support for its position — although with varying degrees of enthusiasm — from Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Italy and Spain.

Gorbachev has tried to add more pressure on the Western allies. He recently promised to unilaterally withdraw 500 short-range nuclear weapons from Europe this year.

According to Western estimates, the Soviet Union has 1,450 short-range nuclear missile launchers in Europe. NATO has 88 Lance launchers, most based in Germany.

In their meetings, NATO officials have been trying to find acceptable language on the weapons issue to write into the comprehensive concept, a blueprint for alliance strategy in arms control and force planning.

The roadmap, which will be presented to Bush and the other leaders at the summit, lacks only a section on the allies' stand on short-range nuclear forces.

Leadership problems in Iran

Operation a reminder of Khomeini's mortality

By Ed Blanche

SURPRISE disclosures that Ayatollah Khomeini has undergone surgery come at a time of intense struggle within Iran's fragile leadership structure over who will succeed him.

The public admission that the 89-year-old Imam, as he is known, was even ill marked a major departure for Iranians, who for the last three years have only glimpsed the Islamic Republic's supreme leader on television.

The reports by the state television and radio networks that Khomeini was in "exceptional condition" for his age, despite the surgery on Tuesday to stop intestinal bleeding, appeared aimed at reassuring Iranians the revolutionary patriarch was still at the helm.

"I would like to inform listeners and viewers that his eminence... is perhaps one of history's exceptions in his physical structure and state of health," the Chief Surgeon, Dr Hassan Arefi, declared.

That may have comforted Khomeini's followers. But it was also a reminder of Khomeini's mortality and emphasized that the question of who will rule Iran in the post-Khomeini era is wide open.

On March 28, Khomeini dumped his designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, in one of Iran's biggest political upheavals since the 1979 Islamic Revolution ended 2,400 years of monarchy.

Political and religious leaders are grappling with changing the revolutionary constitution to eliminate what Khomeini calls "flaws and imperfections" and settle the leadership question.

The recommendations of the 20-man constitutional committee that Khomeini appointed will go before voters in a referendum in mid-August — the same time Iranians vote for a new president.

Since Iran abruptly accepted a ceasefire in the 8-year war with Iraq last summer, it has been gripped by political uncertainty.

Anti-Western revolutionary radicals led by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who favour tight

control of the economy, are locked in a power struggle with those seeking more free enterprise and links with the West.

In March, Montazeri was forced to resign after criticizing Khomeini's policies and questioning what the revolution had achieved in its first decade.

Montazeri's resignation followed Khomeini's sharp swing back to fundamentalist radicalism. In February, Khomeini ordered Muslims to seek out and kill British author Salman Rushdie for his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, charging it blasphemes Islam.

The death call brought widespread Western condemnation of Iran, smothering moves toward liberalization and efforts by parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and others to end Iran's self-imposed isolation.

The radical resurgence intensified a wave of executions of political dissidents and purges.

The power struggle is likely to intensify.

"Montazeri's resignation... raises the question of how far Ayatollah Khomeini is prepared to go in his current drive to root out revisionism," commented Charles Snow, an analyst with the Middle East economic survey weekly.

"It may be that the Ayatollah is feeling his mortality and is trying, like chairman Mao in China, to ensure the future of his revolution after his death by turning the radicals loose while he is still alive," Snow said.

The uncertainty is compounded by Khomeini's tactic of constantly switching support for one faction or another so none becomes too powerful.

Against this backdrop, the deliberations of the constitutional committee will have a far-reaching impact on Iran's future.

Rafsanjani, the only declared presidential candidate so far, wants to widen the powers of the office and scrap the premiership to eliminate the competing power centres that have paralyzed decisions on the economy and social reform.

Undeclared war of nerves in Romania

Human rights' supporters vs security forces

By Colin McIntyre

AN increasingly rough war of nerves is being waged in Romania.

It pits Western diplomats and politicians seeking to bolster human rights by contacting dissidents against local security forces determined to stop them.

The undeclared war began earlier this year when Western countries, particularly the 12 European Community members plus the United States and Canada, decided to take the offensive after Bucharest ignored repeated pleas to respect human rights.

A Belgian politician was beaten up, a Western ambassador was manhandled, another diplomat was ordered into a police car and others have been turned away as they tried to deliver messages or make contact with prominent Romanian dissidents.

"The situation is pretty tense," one senior Western diplomat in Bucharest told Reuters during a recent visit. "But the worrying thing is it could get worse."

Romania's autocratic leader Nicolae Ceausescu cut any remaining financial dependence on the West by announcing last month the country had repaid all its foreign debts.

Now there is concern that Ceausescu may feel he can crack down even harder on the country's small dissident community.

"He has already shown what he thinks of Western pressure by

his latest crackdown," one Western diplomat said. "After paying off the debts he may be saying 'you can't touch me now.'"

The swift repayment of Romania's \$11 billion debt, by throttling imports and exporting everything including food meant for its own population, was widely seen as a political rather than economic decision by a leadership "obsessed with independence," as one diplomat put it.

Last year Romania gave up its most favoured nation status in the United States, worth some \$250 million a year in trade and other benefits, after Washington linked its continuation to human rights improvements.

Criticism of Romania abroad began mounting last year after Ceausescu announced that thousands of villages were scheduled to disappear under a rural re-organisation scheme calling for the creation of new agri-industrial centres.

In January Romania joined 34 countries in adopting a package of human rights commitments at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Vienna, though it immediately declared it would not feel bound to implement all its provisions.

In March, a resolution in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva called for an observer to be sent to Romania to investigate the human rights situation.

Romania's Warsaw Pact ally Hungary supported the

proposal, which was rejected by Romania. Budapest has charged that Bucharest's rural re-organisation policy is aimed at forcibly assimilating its two million-strong ethnic Hungarian minority.

According to Western diplomats in Bucharest, the increasing criticism of Romania abroad may have provided encouragement for a series of open attacks on the leadership from inside the country.

In March alone, six former senior communist officials, two well-known poets and leading dissident Doina Cornea criticised the leadership either in open letters or interviews with Western media.

The six, including former foreign minister Corneliu Manescu and former Washington and UN ambassador Silviu Brucan, were immediately put under a form of house arrest. Some of them have recently been taken from their homes and moved to other parts of the city or to villages outside. Western diplomats said.

"The government has been careful not to make martyrs out of them by putting them in jail," one senior Western diplomat said. "But they are clearly determined to teach them a lesson."

Poet Dan Desliu is being guarded by plainclothes police after describing Romania in an open letter in March as the country of the "multilaterally developed absurd."

Fellow-poet Mircea Dinescu was expelled from the Communist Party and stripped of his job on the editorial board of a leading literary journal when he gave an interview to a French paper bailing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms that have been rejected by Ceausescu.

After West Germany's ambassador Klaus Terloff was stopped from seeing Manescu last month by uniformed and plainclothes police, the envoy was recalled to Bonn for consultations in protest.

British ambassador Hugh Arbuthnot was manhandled by police when he tried to see Cornea, who sent two open letters to Ceausescu attacking his policies, in her home town, Cluj.

A US envoy was stopped from contacting Constanta Pirvulescu, one of six former party officials who signed an open letter to Ceausescu, and at one point was ordered into a police car despite his protestations of diplomatic immunity.

Another Western diplomat who tried to visit Cornea was followed everywhere by a man with a video camera.

In the most recent incident, Belgian politician Gerard Deprez said he and an aide were beaten up by security forces earlier this month as they tried to visit Cornea in Cluj.

(Reuters — Bucharest)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Coke lagging behind Pepsi on Saudi market

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 24. (AP): Five months after re-entry into the thirsty Saudi Arabian market, soft drink giant Coca Cola is still playing catch-up with market leader Pepsi, market executives reported today.

Coke, banned in Saudi Arabia as in most of the Arab world for 28 years due to business ties with Israel, re-entered the market in January.

The decision to allow Coke back into the kingdom was made late last year, as Saudi Arabia was finalising its plans to host the fifth world youth soccer championship. Coke was the official sponsor of the games.

The soft drink had been available in the other Gulf countries months earlier, with bottling plants opened in Oman and the United Arab Emirates and one planned for Bahrain.

In Saudi Arabia however, all locally available Coke is being imported currently from Oman and Turkey.

The Saudi Arabian market, with a population of 11-12 million consumes close to 500 million litres (\$30 million liquid quarts) of soft drinks annually.

In the summer heat, which may exceed 45 degrees centigrade or close to 120 Fahrenheit, per capita consumption is one of the highest in the world. Pepsi, which has been in the kingdom for more than 30 years, has 73 per cent of soft drink sales according to figures released at the end of 1988.

"We're importing a small amount to wave the flag," Geoff Unsworth, president of Coca-Cola, Middle East, told the Associated Press.

Plans for local bottling facilities have been temporarily stymied by competition between General Trading Company, a division of Olayan Group which has distribution rights for Coke, and Saudi Refreshment and Industry Co.

"I don't think it will be too long now before this is resolved," Unsworth predicted.

Unsworth said that the market share was still small, he said that initial response to the product has been "very exciting. Everything we import, we sell."

According to Pepsi, their soft drink "is still the choice of the Arab people."

Nigel Perry, Pepsi account executive at Hill and Knowlton in the Gulf, says that "our experience has been that there is usually an upsurge in Coke" when the product first enters a market, but that "the public then comes back to Pepsi."

Perry noted that in countries such as Oman and the UAE, where Coke has been competing with Pepsi for more than a year, their market study showed public awareness of Colas increased and overall demand grew, creating a bigger pie for each of the competitors.

Shelling, blockade lay Lebanese economy low

BEIRUT, May 24. (Reuters): When the shells fly in Lebanon, the safest place is flat on the floor—even for the economy.

"Much of the economy here would probably collapse if it could ever struggle to its feet," said a diplomat in Christian East Beirut. "For the moment it seems to feel safer on the floor."

The two months of artillery duels which erupted in mid-March have hit the economy throughout the country, but conditions in the Christian enclave are still deteriorating thanks to a Syrian-backed drive to choke off supplies.

Syria and its Lebanese allies have continued shelling Christian ports and maintained a blockade of land links to the Christian enclave despite a May 11 ceasefire mediated by the Arab League.

They hope to stop arms and fuel reaching their foe Michel Aoun, a Christian who heads a government vying for power with a Syrian-backed cabinet led by Muslim acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss.

Aoun says such tactics will never end his campaign to drive Syrian troops from Lebanon but pressure is building on the enclave, Lebanon's industrial and financial centre.

Its estimated 500,000 residents have been forced to realise that the pre-war "Switzerland of the East" is heavily dependent on imports just to survive, let alone prosper. The lack of fuel has brought the message home to all.

Taxi-driver Tony Shalal said today

he had been waiting five days and nights at an East Beirut filling station to buy petrol.

"I sleep in my taxi so I don't lose my place in the line," Shalal said. "I hope to buy a tank of petrol, work for a day, and come back to wait for more."

"When petrol arrives we all fight for it... but I have to feed my family. I think I can keep going for two more months."

Fouad Abi Saleh, president of the Lebanese Industrialists' Association, told Reuters the economy was at its lowest point ever because of the blockade.

"And that came on top of 15 years of accumulated damage. We used to have reserves and much more strength. But

now life is a little harder than even the will of the people can bear."

He said about 80 per cent of Lebanese industry was currently idle because of the blockade and shell damage. Lebanon's main exports are textiles, non-precious metals and vegetables.

Petroleum Ministry director-general Raymond Rafai said the enclave had virtually no fuel because of port closure and shelling, which destroyed two-thirds of Lebanon's storage tanks.

"We have very small quantities and are rationing them. We are trying everything to get shipments but the blockade is very difficult," he said.

Most factories have shut as power is cut for 23 hours out of every 24 and diesel

for private generators is scarce. Raw materials and spare parts from abroad are almost non-existent.

Most people spend their days at home, or queuing for fuel and searching for food. Bankers said that those who were not working survived on money from friends and relatives abroad.

In contrast, Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon have plenty of petrol and diesel trucked in from Syria. Power stations have received fuel by ship since Aoun lifted his blockade of Muslim ports on May 3.

In the absence of official figures estimates of the cost of the blockade and shelling vary, but economist Jean Abi Saada said he believed that total industrial losses were about \$1.2 billion.

Moving ceiling

Increase in OPEC output, 'vital'

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 24. (AP): The president of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was quoted here today as saying an increase in OPEC output is needed if member states wanted an \$18 per barrel price through 1989.

"If we wish to maintain the current level until the end of the year, then we must increase the production quotas," said Rikman Lukman in an interview published in the Saudi Arabian weekly magazine Al Yamamah.

OPEC's ministerial council holds its bi-annual meeting on June 5 in Vienna to consider production and pricing policy for the July to December period.

The organisation's 18.5 million barrel-per-day production ceiling for the first six months of the year has been largely responsible for arresting a downward slide in prices and raising them beyond OPEC's targeted \$18 price.

At times the price has overshoot that level by \$2 to three, though oil industry analysts also attribute this hike to major oil accidents in the North Sea and Alaska.

Lukman, who is also Nigeria's Oil Minister, referred to demand by some OPEC members for an increase in the overall quota between one and 1.5 million barrels per day.

"We want a moderate and gradual increase in prices, not a sudden one, and we therefore have to study the market to decide on the best production level for the second half of the year," he said.

Lukman said that OPEC should have a "moving ceiling" which it can raise or lower to maintain the price levels it sought.

Ansari elected to AIBD board

THE twentieth annual general meeting of the Association of International Bond Dealers convened in Vienna on May 19. Dr El Ansari was nominated by the nomination committee and elected by the delegates, also he was elected by the board to the executive committee. Since its inception twenty years ago the association is considered as the self regulating of the Eurobond market.

Dr El Ansari is a senior financial adviser to BAI (Banque Arabe Internationale Investment) in London. He was also adviser to the chairman of the board on Burgan Bank before he joined in BAI.

Showdown approaches for Nakasone

Influence-peddling scandal

TOKYO, May 24. (AP): The opposition has its long-awaited showdown in parliament with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone tomorrow hoping to force more disclosures in an influence-peddling scandal that has rocked the ruling party.

Nakasone is scheduled to testify under oath before the lower house budget committee tomorrow afternoon, following a report by Japan's justice minister on the government's investigation of the so-called Recruit scandal.

"We hope that this testimony before parliament will not be the end of the matter, and that (Nakasone) will resign from parliament and maybe take some other job," said Seiji Maehara, a Communist party member of the lower house.

Maehara will be one of five opposition party lawmakers questioning Nakasone in a session scheduled last two hours and 20 minutes. Each questioner's time allotment depends on his party's number of lower house seats. The committee chairman, a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, also will be given time.

For months, the opposition has demanded that Nakasone be compelled to testify in parliament about the scandal. Nakasone was Prime Minister when the Recruit Co., an information and publishing conglomerate, made large contributions to politicians or sold them stock at reduced rates before it was listed for public sale.

The country's current Prime Minister, Noboru Takeshita, who served as Nakasone's finance minister, has said he will step down to take responsibility for the scandal.

Until last week, the ruling party opposed allowing Nakasone to testify, calling the demands "improper" considering his status as a former prime minister.

But in a rare show of solidarity, Japan's major opposition parties rallied together to press their demand by boycotting debate on this fiscal year's



Former Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone tries to make his way through crowds of anxious reporters waiting outside his office on Monday, ahead of his long-awaited testimony before Parliament scheduled for today. The testimony is expected to put a virtual end to the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal. (Reuters wirephoto)

budget.

Though the ruling party used its majority to force the budget through the lower house last month, the news media criticised the move as arrogant in a nation that prides itself on consensus politics.

Prosecutors have arrested 14 bureaucrats and businessmen on bribery and securities law violation charges in the scandal and

filed formal charges against two Members of Parliament.

Recruit allegedly sought to gain influence in government by selling unlisted, underpriced shares in a subsidiary to at least 17 politicians or their aides. They made large profits when the shares began trading publicly at higher prices.

Opposition leaders contend Nakasone was a central figure in

the scandal. Eleven of those arrested were members of his cabinet. Nakasone has acknowledged his aides bought 29,000 shares from Recruit, and that the profits were used for political activities.

Prosecutors on Monday filed formal bribery charges against lawmaker Takao Fujinami, a former chief cabinet secretary and top Nakasone lieutenant.

Sterling steadies

Dollar rides at 29-month highs

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): The dollar rode at 29-month highs today and the pound sterling steadied after Britain raised interest rates to protect it against the US currency's strength.

Currency market attention switched away from the dollar in Europe when British bank base interest rates, already at their highest since January 1985, went up by one percentage point to 14 per cent to brake a run on the currency.

London shares tumbled in hectic trade because of the higher cost to industry of borrowing. The Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares closed 18.9 points down at 2,132.7.

The pound, after opening in London at \$1.5605 and under pressure, picked up when the base rate was raised and ended the session at 1.5695.

But dealers said it still looked shaky despite the higher interest rates and earlier Bank of England intervention to draw off the heat. They ascribed this to speculation that monthly trade figures due out tomorrow could be worse than expected.

Britain's current account balance of trade deficit was \$1.2 billion (\$1.9 billion) in March and there are forecasts that it could balloon to \$1.6 billion (\$2.5 billion) in April.

This would signal that high interest rates have failed to dampen a spending boom sufficiently, and some analysts said further unpopular interest rate increases might be needed.

Talk of interest rates in the current economic climate, which is dominated by concern about the dollar's strength, had dealers guessing whether other major industrial nations would follow suit to protect their currencies.

There was speculation Japan and West Germany would take such defensive action. The dollar easily hurdled the two-mark and 140 yen level on Monday to 29-month and 19-month highs respectively.

But there was no immediate sign of such moves. "The UK rise reflects a special problem with the weakness of sterling and there is no link with West Germany," said Bank of Liechtenstein economist Norbert Vowinkel in Frankfurt.

The West German Bundesbank has been conspicuously absent from central bank efforts over the past two weeks to put a lid on the dollar. Dealers believe it is trying to tell the markets that it will bide its time and not be panicked.

Any interest rate rise could only be agreed at the regular two-weekly Bundesbank council session. The next is on June 1.

Markets are awaiting signs that key industrial nations, the so-called Group of Seven, will meet to co-ordinate exchange rate policy out of concern that a strong dollar fuels inflation and helps distort world trade imbalances.

In Tokyo, the dollar rose 1.05 Japanese yen to a closing 143,000 yen, a 19-month high. Later, in London, it eased to 142.78 yen.

Other late dollar rates in Europe compared with late yesterday:

— 2.0115 West German marks, up from 2.0079
— 1.7887 Swiss francs, up from 1.7820
— 6.8250 French francs, up from 6.7865
— 2.2670 Dutch guilders, up from 2.2570
— 1.455.75 Italian lire, up from 1,451.50
— 1.1985 Canadian dollars, up to 1.1975

Gold bullion fell in London to a late bid of \$362.75 a troy ounce, down from \$364.25 bid late yesterday.

In Zurich, the metal fell to \$362.60 bid from \$364.25 bid late yesterday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose five cents to a closing bid of \$364.02.

Silver bullion lost most of its yesterday gains, dropping to \$5.18 a troy ounce from \$5.26.

Lawson feels side-effects of free market policies

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson felt the side-effects of his free market medicine for Britain's economy when he had to raise interest rates yet again today to fight inflation and defend the pound sterling.

The Bank of England, the central bank, raised its money market lending rate one percentage point to 14 per cent as a runaway dollar weakened the pound and forced a reluctant Lawson to nudge bank base rates up.

A champion of wider share ownership, lower personal taxes and free market economics, Lawson has been widely credited as the architect of Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's third successive general election victory in 1987.

He cuts a portly figure in the pin-striped or dark blue suit that is almost the uniform of the Conservative Party and the City of London from which it draws much of its support.

But the former financial journalist represents a younger generation of conservatives, bridging the gap between the upper crust parliamentarians who dominated the party after World War Two and the "yuppie" generation which earns its living trading on the results of free market policies.

The fastest-rising member of Thatcher's cabinet, Lawson, 56, survived much publicised clashes with Thatcher last year over exchange rate policy and became Britain's longest serving chancellor for more than 70 years.

He had been holding out against further interest rate rises because of their unpopularity



Nigel Lawson

with borrowers and investors. But the chancellor with a penchant for poker had not gambled on foreign exchange fluctuations and inflation raising the stakes.

Lawson's crusade against inflation and resolve to defend a vulnerable pound prompted him to authorise the government's 10th base rate rise in less than a year today after consultation with Thatcher, who backed the move.

He said interest rates would remain high as long as needed to tame inflation, now at a seven-year high of eight per cent.

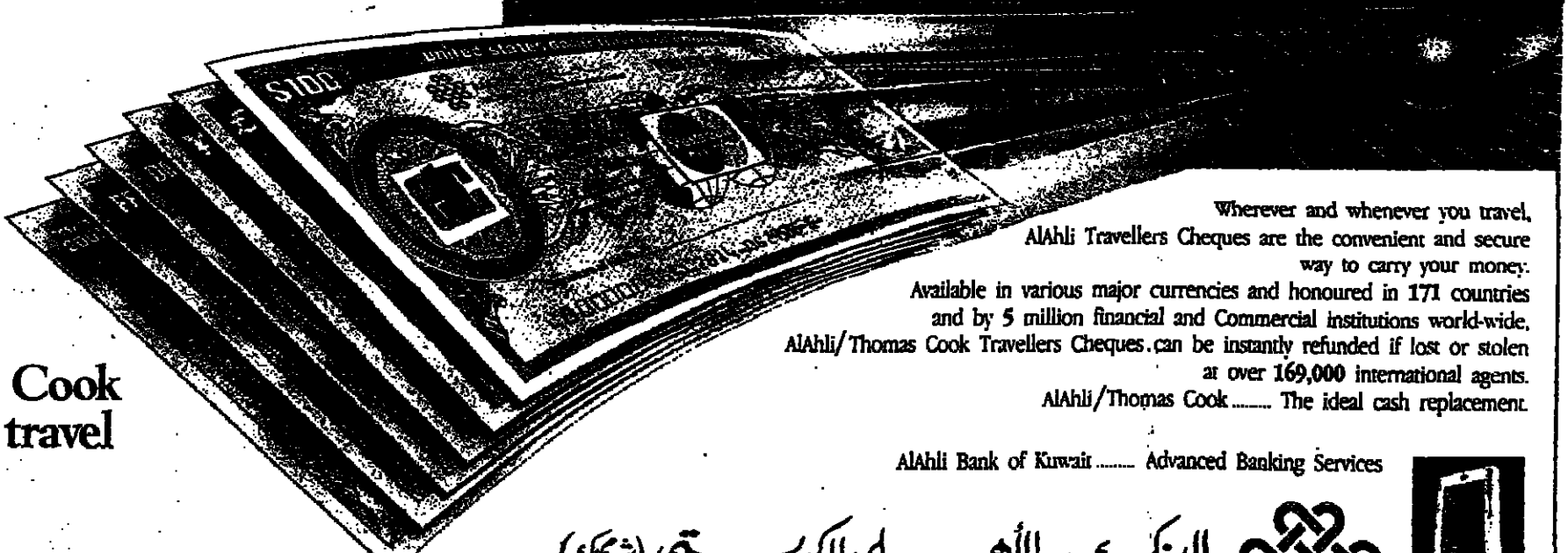
The operation Labour Party as well as some members of the Conservative Party have attacked Lawson's use of interest rates as the main tool to mend Britain's economic ills.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock said it was "a cure that simply worsens the inflationary disease."

See Britain pushes Page 12

ALAHLI'S TRAVELLERS CHEQUES

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 25-26, 1989

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABEY LIFE	279.0
ADT LTD	181.0
ALD LYONS	440.0
ANSTRAD	102.0
ARGYLE GP	200.0
ASDA GP	167.0
BAA	344.0
BTR	380.0
BAT INDS	543.0
BARCLAYS	642.0
BEAZER	192.8
BEECHAM	632.0
BERISFORD	152.0
BICC PLC	508.0
BLUE ARMY	98.25
BLUE CIRC	583.4
BUC GP	486.0
BOOTS CO	291.0
BPS INDS	233.0
BR CORN	199.0
BR AIRWAY	201.0
BR AEROSP	647.0
BR GAS RG	179.0
BR LAND	364.0
B.P.	285.0
B.P.FP	284.0
BR STEEL	89.50
BR TELCOM	270.0
BURMAN OL	588.0
BURTON	224.0
CABLEWIR	546.0
CADBURYS	348.0
CALOR GRP	400.0
CRLTH CO	808.0
COATS VIL	167.0
COOKSON	335.0
COURTAULD	334.0
DALGETY	367.4
DIXONS	145.0
ENG CHINA	482.0
ENTER OIL	559.5
KFI BARCK	162.0
FERRANTI	103.0
FISONS	298.0
GATEWAY	196.5
GEN ACCID	963.0
GEN ELEC	239.0
GLAXO	391.0
GRANDAD	347.0
GLOBE	175.4
GLYNED	303.0
GUARD RYL	206.0
GUIL	390.0
GUINNESS	478.0
HAMMERS A	782.0
HANSON	199.0
HARRIS C	174.2
HARRIS SID	71.0
HILLSHOLM	264.0
INI	236.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	934.0	929.0
600 GROUP	133.0	134.0
A. AMER TS	433.0	431.0
A.B. ELECT	363.0	363.0
A.S.V. HLD	287.0	286.0
AAB KENT	112.0	112.0
AAH HLD	407.0	406.0
AARONSON	107.0	106.0
ADDISON	46.0	46.5
ADVEST	175.0	173.0
ALEX MKW	204.0	203.0
ALEXON	401.0	401.0
ALDO COLL	144.0	144.0
ALLO IR B	307.0	307.0
ALLO IR B	307.0	307.0
ALLIANCE	053.0	049.0
AMBER DAY	51.4	51.4
AMEC	508.0	504.0
AMER TST	147.4	146.4
AMERSHAM	500.0	500.0
AMT HLTHC	363.0	359.0
ANGRIA SA	270.0	268.0
ANGRIA TV	290.0	289.0
ANGSACHER	156.0	156.0
APPLEARD	180.0	181.0
APV PLC	152.0	152.0
ASHLEY LA	102.0	100.0
AUS REE A	234.0	234.0
AUST REED	383.0	380.0
AUTO SECS	291.0	291.0
AVESCO	143.0	143.0
AVON RUBB	614.0	612.0
B. WEINMILL	254.0	253.0
BAILL JPI	517.0	518.0
BAILL SHI	95.4	95.0
BAIRD (M)	246.0	246.0
BANK IRE	289.0	289.0
BANKER IT	91.0	90.0
BARDON	207.0	208.0
BARRY DEV	183.0	181.0
BAYNES C	36.0	36.0
BBA GROUP	204.0	203.0
BEAR BRND	12.2	12.4
BEATTIE J	145.0	145.0
BELHAVEN	54.0	54.0
BELLWAY	257.0	255.0
BENROSE	242.4	241.0
BENLOX HD	65.0	66.0
BERKELEY	228.0	227.0
BH GROUP	132.4	132.0
BLK OF SCO	93.0	94.0
BLK LE 2	10.4	10.2
BK GROUP	454.0	455.0
BNETT + F	89.0	89.0
BOASE HAS	365.0	363.0
BODDINGTH	164.0	163.0
BOOTH SHW	578.0	578.0
BOOTH HENR	478.0	473.0
BORTHWICK	40.0	41.0
BR ARROW	117.0	116.0

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S.Korean trade surplus narrows

SEOUL, South Korea, May 24. (AP): Sluggish exports contributed to a 36 per cent drop in Korea's trade surplus to \$1.65 billion between January and April, the Trade and Industry Ministry reported today.

Korean exports to the United States, the country's biggest market, rose only 0.9 per cent from a year ago to \$6.14 billion, while imports jumped 25.6 per cent to \$4.49 billion, the ministry said.

The big increase in imports was attributed partly to Korean efforts to avoid trade friction with the United States by reducing its bilateral trade surplus. The surplus was about \$10 billion last year.

Korea's trade deficit with Japan during the first four months widened to \$1.41 billion, an increase of 7.6 per cent from a year ago.

Korean exports to Japan rose 14.7 per cent to \$4.09 billion and imports rose 12.7 per cent to \$5.5 billion.

In April, the Korean trade surplus with the United States shrank to \$452 million from \$690 million a year ago, and the Korean trade deficit with Japan rose to \$357 million from \$349 million a year ago, officials said.

The ministry also revised the country's overall trade surplus in the first four months to \$56 million, down from a previously announced surplus of \$67 million. The surplus in the same period last year was \$1.76 billion.

The strengthened Korean currency, which makes Korean exports less competitive, and widespread labour strikes in recent months at electronics, automotive and other factories were responsible for the slowdown in exports, officials said.

Police investigate alleged exports to E. Germany

TOKYO, May 24. (AP): Police are investigating allegations that a machinery maker illegally sold rare metallic materials to East Germany that could be used in reactors of nuclear-powered naval ships, officials said today.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police department said Prometron Technics, a Tokyo-based maker of air plasma steel cutters, allegedly exported an unspecified amount of hafnium, a metallic element closely resembling zirconium, on several occasions to East Germany in 1986 and 1987 without the clearance of the Japanese government.

Officials of Prometron Technics, which has a branch office in East Berlin, allegedly carried hafnium in their luggage when they travelled to the East bloc country, a police official said.

The official, who declined to be named, said Prometron Technics, set up in 1973, has had regular business contacts with East Germany's Electrotechnic Export and Import Corporation and several other East German firms.

Hafnium is among a list of items strictly regulated under the rules of the Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Control, or Cocom, a Paris-based Western watchdog body regulating trade in strategic items with the communist bloc.

Because of hafnium's ready emission of electrons, it is mainly used in control rods for military reactors aboard nuclear-powered vessels and submarines, according to local news reports.

Police searched several offices of Prometron Technics, including the home of the firm's president Hirokuni Matsuda on May 9, the official said.

He said an investigation into whether the firm may have violated customs laws and foreign exchange and control laws is still under way.

Violators of the nation's foreign exchange and control law face up to five years in prison if found guilty.

Arab businessmen jailed for fraud

LARNACA, Cyprus, May 24. (AP): Two Arab businessmen were found guilty by a local court today of defrauding local banks of \$25,000. One was sentenced to 18 months, the other to one year in jail.

Presiding judge Frixos Nicolaides said Ibrahim Haskour, 24, of Syria, masterminded a plot to cash travellers checks for which he had already been reimbursed by the issuing bank after claiming he had lost them. He was ordered jailed for 18 months.

Oussama Hussein, 32, of Lebanon, drew a 12-month sentence for trying to cash checks given him by Haskour.

The two were arrested when a bank clerk noticed the checks being presented for payment had been cancelled after their reported loss.

Americans spend 12pc of their disposable income on travelling

Tourists could be tempted overseas by dollar strength

US wary as dollar climbs in Japan and West Germany

WASHINGTON, May 24. (AP): Political problems in Japan and West Germany are fuelling the US dollar's rise against foreign currencies and putting pressure on George Bush's administration to restrain the soaring greenback.

The White House on Monday took the unusual step of issuing a statement encouraging intervention by central banks to drive down the dollar's value abroad.

The step was taken in conjunction with a sell-off of dollars by the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of Japan and several European central banks.

The decision to issue a statement was propelled by Bush administration fears that too high a rise in the dollar against

other major currencies will erase recent improvements in the US foreign trade deficit.

The deficit, aided by record export sales, fell dramatically to \$8.86 billion in March, a 9.8 per cent drop from February's imbalance of \$9.82 billion, according to the Commerce Department. The drop continued a downward trend in the trade deficit that started early last year.

As the dollar goes higher against other major currencies, imported goods become less expensive in the United States and prices of US products go up abroad, aggravating the trade deficit.

Despite the selling of dollars by central banks, the dollar climbed to more than 2

West German marks and to 140 Japanese yen the upper limits of trading ranges observed by the seven major industrial nations.

A reason for the dollar's rise is that political problems faced by the governments of Japan and West Germany are undermining trader confidence in the yen and the mark, enhancing the attractiveness of the dollar.

In Japan, the announcement by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita that he would resign to take responsibility in the payoff scandal that has rocked Japan is causing investor unrest, analysts said. The governing party's search for a successor has been complicated by the involvement of many

senior figures in the scandal.

In West Germany, the current dispute over nuclear disarmament is causing problems for Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Kohl's advocacy of early US-Soviet talks on eliminating NATO's short-range nuclear missiles is posing a problem for the United States in the upcoming NATO summit. The chancellor, who faces elections late next year, is under even more political pressure at home to take a stronger stand against the missiles.

"Financial markets are getting nervous that Kohl is going to lose the election. And in Japan, we still don't know who the new prime minister will be," said David Wyss, chief financial economist for Data Resources Inc. financial firm.

Zanzotto, president of American Express travel related services international. "This helps the consumer feel he's getting a better deal."

Zanzotto did not expect the US currency's recent surge — it has risen 12 per cent against the mark this year — to entice many travellers to reschedule planned trips and go abroad.

"Honestly, there's not an immediate impact. But we're noticing that in the United States the time between deciding to take a trip and booking and actually leaving is getting closer together," he said.

"Two years ago they would do it six months in advance and today it's six weeks in advance."

Considering that many people choose to take their time off in September and October, a rising dollar could spark a flood of autumn trips overseas.

Among those who do venture to Europe, many are likely to have been before. "We find that at least 50 per cent of the US visitors to Europe are second- and third- and fourth-time visitors," Martin said.

The average tourist spends \$1,000 to 1,500 on a trip to Europe, which usually runs a little under two weeks. This excludes the airfare, the single

most expensive item in a trip.

Trips to Europe are shorter than a few years ago and people tend to visit fewer countries each trip. The "grand tour" of Europe, replete with travel by ocean liner, now tends to be the preserve of the rich and retired.

"One reason is that the large baby-boom population is at a period in their worklife where they don't feel they have the time to spend away from their work," Martin said.

For those with the time and money, travelling by ocean liner is still a romantic way to see the world, although not the bargain it used to be, said Stephen Well-

meier, director of marketing for Travlups Inc, which books passengers and publishes a magazine on sea travel.

"Usually, you find retired people, entrepreneurs, couples in their 50s, and sometimes teachers because they have the summer off," Wellmeier said.

The typical sea cruise — perhaps eight days from the port of Newark, New Jersey, to France, or 120 days for a round-the-world trip — costs about \$100 a day, he said.

If granted unlimited time and money, one-third of Americans said they would pick Europe as they place to visit, according to

"the 1989 travel and leisure study," released last week.

The survey of 1,500 Americans, conducted by Louis Harris and associates for travel and leisure magazine, found that Britain is the European country most Americans dream of visiting.

And the new wave of "openness" in Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet Union and other East European states is luring more visitors.

"The tour operators are in a rather enviable position. They could sell more trips if there were more hotels," Glab said of the communist states of Europe.

Britain pushes interest rates up

Inflation fight continues

LONDON, May 24. (AP): The government, in its continuing fight against resurgent inflation, today pushed up interest rates a full percentage point to 14 per cent, their highest level in more than four years.

The increase, the first since November, was triggered by weakness in the British pound.

The Bank of England signalled the rise in the British commercial banks' key base lending rate by announcing before 10 am (0900 GMT) that it was raising its own money market rate to 14 per cent beginning at 2.30 pm (1330 GMT).

Britain's four major commercial banks, Barclays Bank PLC, Midland Bank PLC, National Westminster Bank PLC and Lloyds Bank PLC, responded by raising their base rate one point to that level.

After its announcement, the Bank of England underlined its support for the pound by intervening against the dollar, foreign exchange dealers said.

Both moves helped lift the pound about one cent against the dollar but the pound quickly fell back from highs reached immediately after the rate announcement.

The pound stood at \$1.5665 at late morning, down from a high of \$1.5750 after the rate increase, but up from \$1.5645 in New York late yesterday.

Stock prices fell sharply on London's Stock Exchange. The Financial Times-stock exchange 100-share index fell 26.2 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 2,125.4, by 11 am (1000 GMT).

The government was "obviously reacting because it is concerned about the fall in the pound," said Tim Fox, an economist at Midland Bank.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking at the Conservative Party's women's national conference, repeated that high interest rates were necessary to bring down inflation, which is running at an

annual rate of eight per cent, compared with 3.9 per cent a year ago.

She said that while the effects of high interest rates might be uncomfortable, continued high inflation would be worse.

A treasury official, who wasn't identified in accordance with British practice, said the government "has always made it clear that we will take no risks with inflation."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, the treasury's top official, has repeatedly stated over the past few months that the government was prepared to defend sterling because a decline in the currency would increase inflationary pressures.

The eight per cent annual inflation rate for April raised expectations that inflation would climb higher, rather than peak at that level, as Lawson had forecast in March.

The last time interest rates stood at 14 per cent was in March 1985.

World Bank sees role in Brady plan

HONG KONG, May 24. (Reuters): The World Bank will support a US initiative to reduce debt among developing nations if they take tough steps to improve their economies, the bank's treasurer said on Monday.

Donald Roth, on a visit to Hong Kong, said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were preparing guidelines on a proposal by US Treasury Secretary James Brady to encourage commercial banks to forgive debt and allow debtor nations to get back on their feet.

"Does the bank support the Brady initiative? Yes. But the absolute precondition for World Bank involvement is that debtors undertake a medium-term structural adjustment programme that is acceptable to us," Roth told reporters.

"If medium term adjustment can't be effected because the debt burden is too high, then we are prepared to help with debt reduction."

The initiative has been criticised by some developing countries for favouring those countries who have shirked unpopular economic reforms. Those who have dealt responsibly with their debt will not receive any benefits, they say.

"It is a dream every developer has"

Chicago skyscraper would be world's tallest

CHICAGO, May 24. (AP): A major developer has announced plans to build a 125-story skyscraper that would tower over the current world's tallest building, and said it already has inquiries from prospective tenants.

Miglin-Beitler Development Inc., a major developer of offices in Chicago and its suburbs, announced Monday it plans to build a 1,914-foot (583-metre) downtown skyscraper — nearly 400 feet (122 metres) taller than the 110-story Sears Tower, which was completed in 1974.

Miglin-Beitler presented its plans to the city's planning department last week and

hopes to get approval in time to start construction in December.

"I. Paul Beitler said four years ago when I joined the firm that he was going to build the world's tallest building," said Miglin Beitler spokesman Mark Jarasek. "It is a dream every developer has."

He said the company wouldn't identify any prospective tenants who have made inquiries "until we get approval of the building from the city."

However, renting all the space could be a problem. Sears, Roebuck and Co. announced last fall that it planned to sell Sears Tower

and move its 6,000-worker merchandise group out of the building as part of a restructuring plan, opening up abundant office space in the city.

The proposed building, being designed by architect Cesar Pelli of New Haven, Connecticut, would be built on a one-acre parcel about three blocks from Sears Tower, Jarasek said.

It would contain 1.2 million square feet (111,400 square metres) of office space, only about one-third the rentable space at its base, a third-floor mezzanine level, 10 stories of parking and a two-storey health club.

Soviets view nuclear power plants

BUCHANAN, New York, May 24. (AP): The United States and the Soviet Union should work together on nuclear power plant safety, the head of the Soviet equivalent of the nuclear regulatory commission said today.

Vadim Malyshev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Supervision on Nuclear Power Safety, was one of four inspectors who spent the day touring the three Indian point nuclear power plants in Buchanan, a village about 35 miles (56 kilometres) north of New York City.

After a tour of the New York power authority's Indian point 3 plant, which included a visit to the

control room, turbine and containment building, Malyshev said through an interpreter that he hoped the two nations could discuss power plant safety "with a sense of openness and trust."

The 1986 Chernobyl accident led to tremendous scrutiny and change "in every facet of nuclear power" in the Soviet Union, Malyshev said.

The April 26, 1986, accident at the No. 4 reactor of the four-unit nuclear power plant in the Soviet Ukraine killed two workers immediately in the world's worst atomic accident.

The accident sent a cloud of radiation over large parts of northern and central Europe, leading to bans on foodstuffs from several countries.

Central bank under pressure

Fed's top priority is to curb inflation

WASHINGTON, May 24. (AP): A top Federal Reserve official said today that curbing inflation remains the US central bank's top priority.

He gave no indication the Fed was considering easing credit to slow the rise of the American dollar against foreign currencies.

Asked if an easing of monetary policy was warranted given the surging value of the dollar and the slowing US economy, Fed Governor Robert Heller responded, "inflation isn't dead. Inflation is still a key factor to be considered in monetary policy-making."

Speaking at the National Economists Club, Heller said policymakers must "proceed in a prudent fashion to get a complete assessment of the economy and the inflationary situation."

Only then, he said, should policy action be taken, adding: "That will be on July 5th," the next meeting date for the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets policy for the Federal Reserve.

The Fed in March 1988 began pushing up interest rates in an effort to slow economic growth and ease inflation. The central bank has come under increasing pressure in recent days to ease interest rates now that the American economy appears to be losing steam and the dollar's value is surging.

A reduction in US interest rates reduces the incentive for foreigners to purchase dollar-denominated investments and thus reduces world demand for the dollar, allowing the greenback's value to fall.

The rising value of the dollar, which this week hit a 2 1/2-year high against the mark and a 1 1/2-year high against the yen, makes it harder to reduce the US foreign trade deficit because imported goods become less expensive here and the prices of US products overseas rise.

But Heller said that setting aside the volatility of the dollar over the past week, "we have a very high degree of exchange rate stability."

"The last couple of days that has been whittled away, but if you would have looked at it early last week you would have seen... a pretty stable exchange rate over a considerable period of time," he said.

Heller conceded that the "policy maker who ignores the exchange rate signals does so at his own peril," but added that currency rates are only one among many factors to be weighed in setting monetary policy.

Sudan to get IDA credit

PARIS, May 24. (KUNA): The International Development Agency (IDA) is granting Sudan a credit of \$75 million to help that country finance a major reconstruction project after last year's floods, it was announced by the World Bank in its latest news bulletin.

Heavy rains and floods in September 1988 damaged 200,000 houses, left two million people homeless, wiped out crops and destroyed many schools and hos-

pitals, especially in the capital city Khartoum and in the northern region, the World Bank said. Under the reconstruction project, it went on, the Sudanese authorities will provide thousands of poor families in Khartoum with materials needed to rebuild their homes.

Agricultural credit will be made available to farmers to help them replant and rebuild their farms and community facilities, such as schools, will also be rebuilt, it added.

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HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The Gulf English School



Pamela Blackley shakes hands with the GES representatives on behalf of KACH.



Young Giles Blackley inspects the toys for perfection.



The GES representatives proudly show off the collection of toys

More toys more joys

By Manal Elsheikh
Arab Times staff

ON Sunday afternoon, if anybody walked into the Gulf English School, the first thing that would catch their eye was a huge pile of toys put on a table at the left of the entrance.

There were toys of all types: cars, dolls, board games, cuddly animals and miniature musical instruments.

some of their toys to the Kuwait Association for Children in Hospital (KACH). Pamela Blackley, representing KACH, proudly received the toys from two of the

school's elder pupils. She was thrilled at the amount of lovely toys that lay before her and was very grateful to the school and its efforts to help in making the Kuwaiti hospitals a

kinder place for the children to be in. Again KACH takes this opportunity to thank yet another school for its sincere help and support.

Remember if you have anything that could help KACH phone up the Public Relation's department at the Amiri Hospital, leave a message and your phone number.

James and the Giant Peach

By Manal Elsheikh
Arab Times staff

AT five o'clock last Sunday and Monday, after a brief reading of the Holy Quran by Ahmed Ismail (of Junior 3), students from Junior 3 and 4 of the Gulf English School performed a very witty version of the famous Roald Dahl's story "James and the Giant Peach."

Staff of the Gulf English School cleverly managed to adapt the screen-play to suit the Kuwaiti environment.

The theatre contained three stages: a small stage to the left, on which a mother and her two children narrated the parts of the story that required imagination, another small stage to the right, where small scenes were acted out and the main stage which was decorated as the inside of the peach.

Sound and light effects helped bring the production to reality (the musical instruments, other than the piano, were also played by students).

The story was about a little boy called James who was orphaned and lived with his two very mean aunts. All they wanted him to do was work, work, work. He was not allowed to communicate with children of his own age.

One day an old man gave him a bag full of magic worms and told him to swallow them so that magnificent things would happen to him. However, James tripped, and the bag of worms fell to the ground and each worm sunk into the soil.

James thought that would be the end of it

but the next day he was amazed to see a huge peach grow on the tree. It grew so large and was so delicious that he decided to make it his home. His greedy aunts decided to make money from it by charging a fee if anybody wished to see it.

After a day of successful business, the horrible aunts called poor hungry James to clear up his mess while they counted their money. James, like many boys of his age was curious about the gigantic peach and decided to have a closer look. He found a hole in the peach and crawled into it.

With the energy of an explorer, James finally found himself in the stone of the peach together with an old green grasshopper, a silkworm, two fipfipeds, a spider, a ladybird, an earthworm and a glow-worm. The insects explained that they had swallowed some green worms and were now waiting for him so that they could leave the hill to find a nicer place to live in.

As they took off and the peach rolled down the hill James's two horrible aunts were squashed by its enormous weight.

The peach landed on the surface of the sea and stayed afloat. After getting through minor problems, the passengers aboard the peach began panicking at the sight of hungry sharks. Fortunately, James's quick thinking managed to get them out of the mess by telling the spider and the silkworm to make thread, making the earthworm sit on the top of the peach as a trick-bait for the seagulls and tying the rope to as many seagulls as he needed until the peach was lifted to the air.

The group travelled safely over the seas, but while in the air, but an aeroplane cut through

the support ropes and the peach fell. James and all the insects thought they were to die, however, the peach landed on the spike of the Kuwait Towers and the people of Kuwait, astonished at what they saw brought them to safety within minutes. The peach was put on a large truck and the entire group toured Kuwait.

As the tourists approached the Gulf English School, a young student shouted out to all her friends and a huge crowd gathered to see the peach. The child asked James if she could taste the famous peach and with his consent the whole school did too! That was the end of the peach.

Like many stories all the heroes lived happily ever after. The grasshopper became a violinist at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel, the fipfipeds went and sold shoes, the earthworm became an actor, the spider and the silkworm established a factory of the finest cloth, the ladybird married a fireman, the glow-worm remained at Kuwait Towers to contribute to the lighting and James wrote more and more stories for all children to enjoy!

The production, although not a musical, was brought to life by a few light dancing and singing scenes and odd jokes.

The young 10 and 11 year olds learnt all their lines very well which was remarkable as English to them is a second language.

This excellent performance finalised the participation of each and every student in the Gulf English School in performing something creative, whether singing, dancing or acting.

Like most of the schools in Kuwait, the end of year exams are round the corner and we wish all students the best of luck.



Above: James' parents die at the beginning of the production

Left: Insects greet James with a dance

Amazing facts

Half the words denoting trickery and deceit in the English language are derived from playing cards.

The only flying mammals are bats, the largest of which is the Kallang found in Malaysia and Indonesia, which has a wing span of up to 3 feet 7 inches.

The Forest of Martyrs near Jerusalem has 6 million trees — each tree being a memorial to a Jewish life lost in Nazi Europe.

Anti-conscription riots occurred in New York in 1863, in which 1200 people were killed.

Rubber is used in the manufacture of bubble-gum; it is the substance that makes blowing the bubble possible.

An Australian gold-miner in 1869 found a nugget weighing 142 pounds.

On the Cotentin Peninsula of France flowers bloom in profusion on the thatched roofs of farm buildings.

In most Dutch cities you can see herring stalls. The Dutch love to eat them there on the streets.

Eighty per cent of the world's supply of dates come from Iraq.

When Westminster Abbey was built its congregation numbered less than sixty.

Bulimia is a rare disease which causes sufferers to spend as much as 15 hours a day eating.

A portable dressing-tent for bathers, was sold in England in the 1920s, supported by a top shaped like a lampshade, that rested on the bather's head.

The chewing of fresh parsley will take away the smell of garlic.

During the Second World nearly 649,000 jeeps were manufactured.

The Roman Emperor Caligula made his horse a consul.

A bridge built by the Incas across the Apurimac River in Peru in 1350 and spanning a 150 foot gap was in use for more than 500 years.

The first Black American to hold an elective office was John Mercer Langston (1829-1897). He was born a slave and became town clerk in Lorain County, Ohio in 1845.

There are an estimated 5,000,000 sheep in Wales.

A chamber-pot full of salt used to be a common wedding present in north-east Scotland.

Mortgages were being provided by Babylonian banks in 2100 B.C.

It takes 2 1/2 pounds of grain to produce a pound of chicken meat, 3 lbs of grain for each pound of pork and 10 pounds of grain for a pound of beef.

The world's only living prehistoric lizards can be found on the island of Komodo, Indonesia, and reach 10 feet in length.

Scientists have found that mice prefer women to men.



James speaks to the old man with the magical worms.

Join the dots Cheeky chap!



Dear Junior Readers,

All of us sometimes tend to get a bit lost in thought — especially during the summer. But, then, with a little bit of effort I am sure all of us can come out with at least "one good thought a day."

Well, in my case, today's letter to all you juniors is on the weather. Now wait a minute — don't start groaning, I am going to highlight the brighter side of the weatherman.

He says, though the weather be a bit "up in the hotties" it's the ideal time to take off to the beach, bathe the sea breeze, build castles in the sand, maybe do a bit of fishing, swimming and if you are one of those better-equipped people with fancy sports gear — even do some snorkelling. Oh, what fun that will be!

I shall be delighted to hear from any of you readers as to how you have acted to not only beat the weather, but to have maximum fun during this period when everyone groans.

Just a word of caution — too much sun can sometimes spoil a lot of fun — so exercise a sense of caution!

Have a lovely summer weekend

Manal

Firsts and lasts

The American Red Indians used to name their babies after the first thing they saw when they left their tepees after the birth — that is why great chiefs had names like 'Sitting Bull' and 'Running Water.'

The first juke-box got its name from the Old English word 'jouk' which describes a quick, jerky type of movement.

The first, last and only portrait of the Duke of Monmouth was painted when he was dead. The duke was executed in 1685 after leading a rebellion against his uncle James II; but it was only after he was dead that it was realized that no portrait of him existed. His head was hastily stitched back in place so that the portrait that now hangs in the National Gallery could be painted.

The Gordon Bennett Trophy Race in 1903 was the first international motor race run in Britain. Parliament had to pass a special Act to allow it to be run on the roads.

Proverb: First come, first served.

When they returned to earth after making the first moon landing in history, astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins spent two and a half weeks in quarantine just in case they had picked up any germs on the moon.

Before becoming the world's largest desert, the Sahara was first a lush, green area well stocked with animals and plants.

The Phoenicians were probably the first to sail around Africa, six hundred years before the birth of Christ.

Walt Disney, who invented Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and many other cartoon characters, began his first company and called it the 'Laugh-O-Gram Corp.' In 1923 it collapsed in financial ruin. However, Walt Disney was such a remarkable man that he went on to become one of the richest men in America.

Word search

ABRACADABRA

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ACES | HOOD |
| ACT | JOKER |
| BALLS | KIT |
| CARDS | OPEN SESAME |
| CLOAK | PACK |
| CORK | RABBIT |
| DISAPPEAR | ROPE TRICK |
| DOVES | TAROT |
| ESCAPIST | TRICK |
| HEY PRESTO! | WAND |
| | WIZARD |

D	J	T	S	I	P	A	C	S	E
D	R	O	I	C	L	O	A	K	M
I	D	A	K	L	L	T	C	I	A
S	N	C	Z	E	R	I	T	T	S
A	A	O	A	I	R	B	U	D	E
P	W	R	C	T	W	B	R	O	S
P	D	K	E	S	A	A	I	V	N
E	O	P	S	O	C	R	N	E	E
A	O	S	L	L	A	B	O	S	P
R	H	E	Y	P	R	E	S	T	O

Clue: It's a trick (8 letters)

Is Dev Anand in a no-win situation?

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

THE matinee idol, Dev Anand, who has kept fans sighing for more than four decades has finally reached the dilemma of do or die. Dev's magnetism as a star was always his biggest asset and he could have gracefully eased into elderly characters, roles which are powerful and dignified.

Unfortunately he has made many mistakes. First, his insistence on remaining a youthful star, surrounded by young people and dominating the central role of his films, while giving less footage to others. Second, his false belief that he is very creative as a writer-director and can comfortably make outstanding and successful films.

But the failures were many and it remained a trade wonder as to how he kept getting finance for new ventures. Then some financial bungs began to surface, followed by notices, legal procedure etc. All was not well. Dev tackled these problems but news began to trickle out that he was selling off his real estate around his famous Iris Park residence.

The Juhu crowd gossiped about this, while Dev was laying big stakes on *Sachche Ka Bol Bala*. The stars Meenakshi, Jackie Shroff etc. were demanding huge payments while giving him very little time. But the gentleman did not say a word against his co-artists. The film was sold for low prices and it bombed at the box. There was already a previous liability round his neck, the unsold movie *Main Tere Liye* starring his son Sunil Anand with Meenakshi.

To everyone's surprise, Dev started and even completed one more film *Awal Number* with 'Bollywood's' hottest property Aamir Khan. Once upon a time Dev had done his like *Jab Pyar Kisise Hota Hai* for the Husains and the gladly lent his son. But Dev did not make full use of him. Once again, he has cornered the show and even Aadiya is given better footage than Aamir, while heroine Ekta has no market value. The film has been lying unsold for several territories and can't be released soon. The video rights have been divided among two parties thus causing a legal dispute.

Now, Dev's fortunes lie with the outside production *Lashkar* which



Dev Anand with Sonam in *Lashkar*, which might just rescue him from oblivion.

he agreed to do breaking his principle of 15 years. He is only an actor in it, but if it succeeded, then he will be in demand for other movies, and finance would flow in to bring him out of the woods. The film due for release has a popular formula plot about Dev's sister (Sonam) being gang-raped. So he then forms a private army with Sumet Saigal, Hemant Birje, and Aadiya to take revenge. The heroine is Madhvi. Dev is already considering other acting offers but will have to slow down on the home production front.

Dev is otherwise such a polite friendly person that nobody likes to see him hurt. But he must face facts and see the writing on the wall. For example he says: "I never talk about my past I don't see my old films. I don't even keep my old photos."

All this is because Dev, like Raj Kapoor, cannot accept the fact that his youth will not return, that the handsome charming look which made many hearts throb is gone for ever and that there are better writers and directors whom he can engage for his productions, if he swallows his ego and gives them freedom. We hope he realises this before it's too late.

Rishi speaks out

'I will play the hero in Henna'

Q. You have been often called as a parallel hero or a buffer between two heroines. Don't you feel bad about it?

A. Stars are public property. Anybody has got a right to give any label. Partly I think it's my fault that I willingly accepted some such roles, like a second lead to Amitabh in *Mann Mohan Desai's* films. But now no more.

Q. What about Ajooba?

A. It's my uncle Shashi-jii's film. I must do what he asks me. But my role is not secondary or parallel. It has got its own independent strength.

Q. Any roles like *Naseeb* *Apna Apna* or *Nagina* where the heroine are stronger?

A. Not many really, except where those girls become snakes. Then naturally they

become strong, as they can bite. (Laughs). I am not there in *Nagina 2* i.e. *Nigahen*.

Q. But you are there in *Shesh-naag*.

A. It's a very good role.

Q. You don't aim to further your career to the top?

A. It's a question of contentment. Why create more problems and tensions? As for career, acting is the only job I know. So I have to keep on doing it, to keep the home fires burning.

Q. Neetu has become a producer of Video — TV serials. Why do you put your wife to this exertion?

A. We Kapoors don't like our women to act on screen. But if they look after the house, then they can do any other

good activity. Actually we are joint producers of the serial *Dharam Yudh*.

Q. You also play a role in it?

A. Not a role. I am a singing narrator.

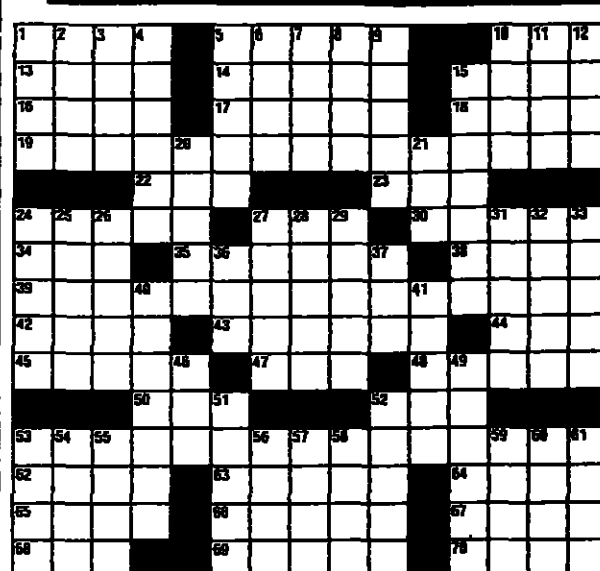
Q. What about home production *Henna*? People say that Rajeev will be the hero and not you.

A. No way. It was given out right from the start that I will be the hero of *Henna* and I will be so. Randhir has recorded one more song and very soon the film start rolling as the heroines get decided.

Q. Once again, here, you are sandwiched between two heroines?

A. Isn't it a nice position to be in? (Laughs). See the film and then say who sandwiched whom.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- English country festivals
 - Tint
 - Atlas item
 - Comedian Jay
 - Havana habitant
 - Parrot fish
 - Paricle
 - Regarding
 - Soviet sea
 - Bewildered statement
 - Housman's "A Shropshire"
 - Ruler at Versailles, once
 - Gaudi country
 - "Jo" Griffith-Joyner
 - Insinuating
 - Faithful
 - Japanese and Japanese, e.g.
 - Toward the mouth
 - Saled topping
 - Toiletries case
 - Cleveland
 - Candle or holiday
 - Fast flier
 - Years
 - Physicist's deg.
 - Expert, for short
 - Go AWOL
 - Attila's
 - followers
 - Domingo's domain
 - French vineyard
 - Helmsman's direction
 - Bridge to paradise, in Islam
 - Sentry's command
 - Chemical suffix
 - Burns
 - 70 first family member
 - 1 Jai —
 - Baltic native
 - Slaughter of baseball
 - East African native
 - Burn with steam
 - Found a place for the Picasso
 - But, in Berlin
 - New York City Ballet's Peter Martins, e.g.
 - Stage direction
 - Philippine Moslem
 - Syria, formerly
 - North or South
 - Central
 - Americans
 - Hawaiian veranda
 - Triumphs for Tyson: Abbr.
 - Achier
 - Mickey's pet
 - 26 I am present: Lat.
 - Sibelius' countrymen
 - Alan and Cheryl
 - He laughs: Fr.
 - Like marchers of March 17th
 - Alighieri
 - Borders
 - Capuchin monkey
 - Coral or Red
 - See 53 Down
 - Slawpoke
 - Banking abbr.
 - Prague natives
 - 51 in a huff
 - "Up Doc?"
 - Bangkok citizen
 - "Lang Syne"
 - Word with bend or jerk
 - "Beowulf", for one
 - Roman emperor
 - Demo ending
 - Wings, Latin style
 - Electrician's unit
 - Neighbor of 2 Down

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
CON JOB BY THE DEFENSE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 6
♥ K Q 8
♦ A K J 10 5
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ 10 8 5 3
♥ Void
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ K Q 10 5 2

EAST
♠ A 9 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 7 4
♦ 8
♣ A 9 3

SOUTH
♠ J
♥ A J 6 5 3 2
♦ Q 6 3
♣ 8 7 4

The bidding:
North 1♣ East 1♥ South 1♥ West 3♥

Opening lead: King of ♠
It is hard enough for the defenders to take all the tricks to which they are entitled. But sometimes even that is not enough. That's when you have to make bricks out of straw.

North had an impossible rebid to make. To jump to three hearts he really needed a fourth heart; and a leap to two no trump was not ideal without a club stopper. We really don't mind which of the two lies you would choose to tell—on this hand the final contract would be the same, and there's no telling which will turn out right in other cases.

West led the king of clubs, and

East paused to take stock. Declarer had to have the ace of hearts for his two bids, so realistically three tricks in the black suits were all the defenders could expect unless... However, East knew that trumps were breaking badly for declarer, and he was able to use that knowledge to pull off a slick swindle.

Instead of making the normal play of encouraging a club continuation by playing the nine, East overtook the king with the ace and returned the nine. To all the world, declarer included, it looked as if East held a doubleton club. West was certainly taken in, because he took the queen of clubs and led a third round of the suit.

Declarer was not going to let East score a cheap ruff, so he trumped in dummy with the queen, which would have been perfectly safe against a normal trump distribution. When his right-hand opponent followed with a third club, declarer began to have an inkling of what was about to befall. And when West showed out on the first round of trumps, it was confirmed—down one.

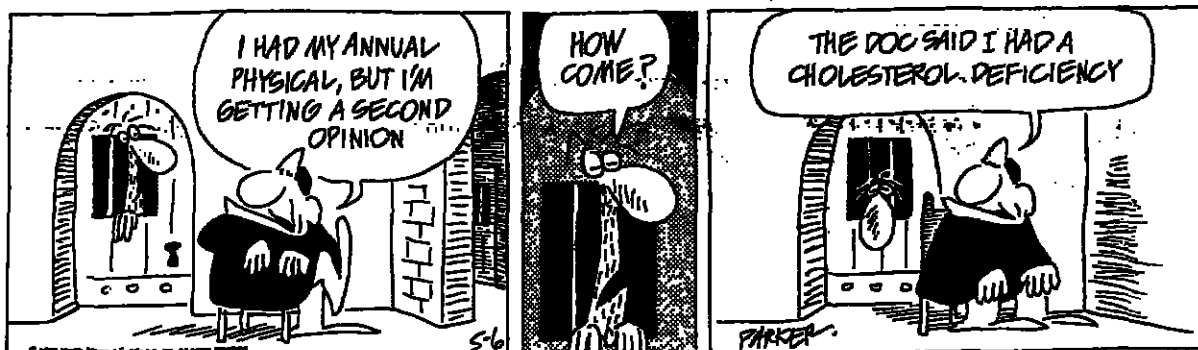


ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SLOW ABDES AIB
EIRE CARVE MOR
WALLSTREET SNAIG
RETAILERS ADIZIE
TIED OUTSET
DESTINY PUGET
ANTONS BATH RIB
NORM CUT EENY
USE SPOT CAREER
EMORY COUNTED
RETENE ARAG
ETNA SORETHUMB
TIAN STREETCARS
AMI ETAPE LITII
NEE ROISYS ALIMS

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>At first you will not quite know where you are going but later all will become clear. You should not act on impulse nor jump to conclusions. Avoid straining yourself if at all possible. Be observant.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You should avoid doing anything that would obviously be harmful to your health. You should not just live for the moment, pay attention to the future too. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be more observant.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>At first all will seem in a muddle but later you will be able to sort things out. Make sure you leave early enough to be on time for an appointment. Do not try to use force where persuasion has got nowhere. Be gentle.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>The Moon's better influence will help you to deal with a problem. You should take a little better care of your health. Do not try to use force and do not impose yourself on others. Be considerate.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>Today you will be able to do something most positive. You should not take everything quite so seriously, but nor should you be frivolous. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 33. Make sure your diet contains enough vitamins. Be objective.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)</p> <p>You will be able to put your common sense to good use. Something you have been learning will suddenly begin to fall into place. You should not fail to keep up with a friend who has moved. Be patient.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>The influences are mixed and you should avoid taking any needless chances. You should try not to exaggerate nor should you underestimate the difficulties. Try to think a little more positively and constructively. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>The Moon's improved influence will help you to avoid falling into a trap. You will have to act swiftly if you do not want to miss a good opportunity. Avoid allowing your emotions to get out of control, but do not repress them altogether. Be generous.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will should stand up for yourself without becoming aggressive. You will have something to be proud about. You must avoid getting bogged down in detail. Be compassionate.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)</p> <p>Do not spend too much time dealing with a small detail. There will be some conflict but you will be able to resolve it. Make sure you do not exceed any speed or other limits. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>You will be able to make good progress today but you must not take anything for granted. Do not keep another person waiting for something you have promised to do or deliver. And avoid doing anything that might be construed as rough or even brutal. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You should adopt a working rhythm that you are able to maintain. You should do all you can to avoid getting into an argument with a friend of yours. Before doing something new do consult with your partner. Be moderate.</p>



Dilip Kumar and Saira Banu.

Amjad Khan's mobile hospital started at a Bombay Studio has closed down. He had done it with the best of intentions for the welfare of poor workers. But he was cheated by everyone. Even the doctors stole medicines. Moreover, no other star came to Amjad's help except Raakhee. That's how the rich industry looks after its own folk.

Saira Banu is writing the biography of Dilip Kumar. This is a pity because Dilip's stature

demands a professional author. Even in the realm literature, film people try and keep it within the family. But can Saira be totally objective and honest? For example, will the Asma affair be given a small chapter?

Dharmendra insists that he will himself make a film for his son Bobby, when the time comes, as he did for Sunny. But he will not give Bobby to other producers like Subhash Ghai. Let's see what Bobby thinks.

Aamir Khan has no fears of being paly paly with the tough heroes like Govinda or Chunky. He knows he has no future as an action hero. That's why he has already started talking against violence in films, and in favour of love. And that's why his papa Tahir has wisely cast him and Juhu as snake-charmers in *Tum Mere Ho* to be made like Filmstar's old hit *Nagin* with Vyjayntimala and Pradeep Kumar.

When Shabana and niece Farha got together for the shooting of *Rakhwala* there was tension in the air. Fiery Farha had walked out on her aunt, once she got stardom. Both had also spoken against each other. But luckily the need for survival in the industry prevailed and both worked peacefully, bringing the producer's blood pressure down.

And now, even Sri Devi chose to record a Hindi song when she cannot even speak Hindi dialogue properly. Yash Chopra bowed to her request, also taking it to be a good gimmick for his "Chandi". But poor composers Shiv - Hari needed 15 hours to make Sri sing in proper "sur". Who's the next star singer now? Dimple?

Star Quotes

Sajata Mehta: What's wrong in exposing a bit? Besides acting a little bit of sex and glamour work wonders.

Neena Gupta: God is the father of my child. I did not want to have a child from any of the men I knew. So I asked him one day: Why can't I have a child from you? Within a few days I was carrying.

Jestendra: People say that I am finished. I have not had a big hit in the last two years. So what? I have seen worse times.

The Art Buchwald Column Book sale

his last four books and so he had no choice. Fortunately, they weren't copyrighted. If you'd like a complete set, we can let you have it for \$150.

"What have the reviews been like?"

"The Teamsters Union described him as another Tolstoy. The National Rifle Association said that his books would go down in history with the 'Guns of Navarone,' and the National Association of Manufacturers bought 100,000 for every member of its organization. If the congressman votes to bail out the savings and loan industry, we're going to have to go into another printing."

"Does Congressman Alamo print his own books?"

"Of course. He's involved with everything from cover designs to seals. He even goes to Finland

every month to select his own paper. If you don't want the book, would you care for a magazine?"

"How much is it?"

"The same as the book — \$25."

"How can that be? Don't people complain when you charge them so much for reading material?"

"The Hot Coal industry never cares how much the congressman asks for his publications. When it comes to looking out for the coal interests — there is no price you can put on an Alamo creative work."

"I think I'll just sit here and wait."

"Would you like to visit Congressman Alamo's bookstore?"

"Where is it?"

"In his office. We had to put it there because we didn't have any room out here. You can go in and browse. Any publication you see is for sale, including



the US budget for 1989, bound in snakeskin."

"You are a very hospitable office," I told the secretary.

"We do our best to make everyone feel at home. Now, if you'll excuse me I have to pack 5,000 books for the Killer Bees Association. They want to give them as door prizes at all the state fairs."

"Maybe I'll read National Geographic."

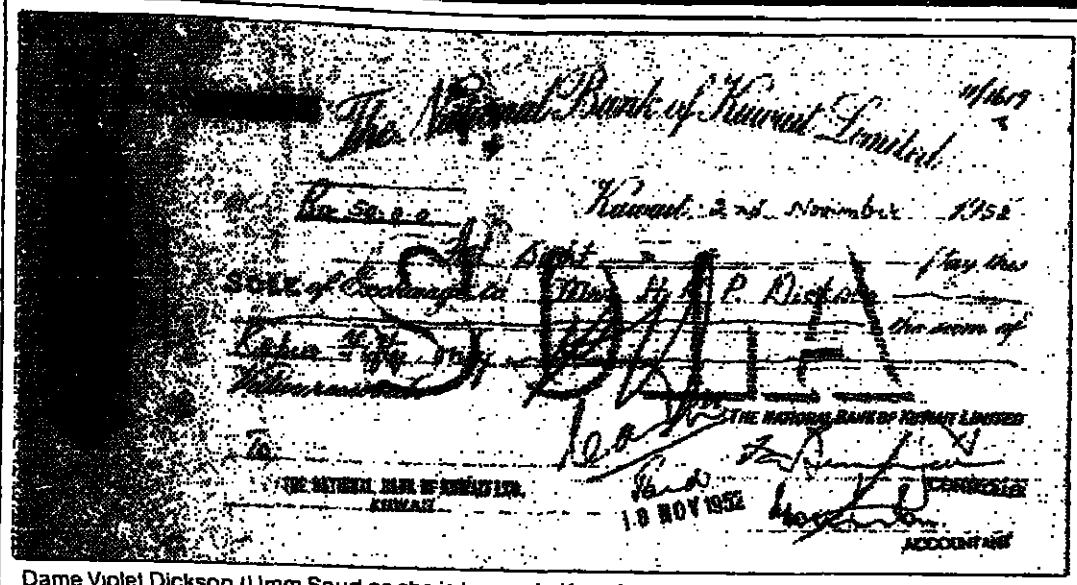
"Do you want to pay cash or give me a traveller's check?"

"I have to pay to read National Geographic!"

"PAC money doesn't go as far as it used to."

1989, Los Angeles Times-Syndicate.

EVENTS



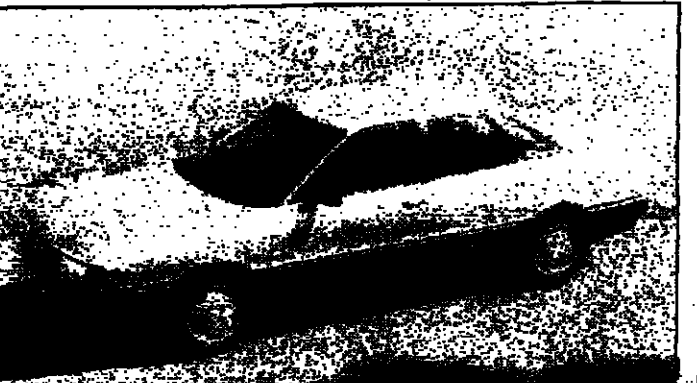
Dame Violet Dickson (Umm Saud as she is known in Kuwait), who has been living in Kuwait since May 1929, celebrates this year her 93rd birthday. Dame Violet, the wife of the former British political agent in Kuwait, the late Col H.R. Dickson, is, besides being a renowned resident of Kuwait for about six decades, a very first person back in December 1952 to use the foreign exchange services of NBK, from the then "New Street" located premises. Dame Violet actually purchased at that time the second, third and fourth NBK drafts denominated in Indian rupees, which was the currency then used in Kuwait. The above picture shows a Rs 50 draft which Mrs Dickson purchased on Nov 2, 1952.



The participants of the third annual triathlon, due on Friday (May 26) look forward to their training sessions daily. Above: some of the participants in the mixed category.



The Commercial Bank in association with Thomas Cook conducted a competition for those who visited the bank's booth set up at the Kuwait Travellers Expo '89 which was held at the Mithra Fairgrounds from March 28 to April 1. The Thomas Cook company contributed a traveller's cheque worth US\$300 to the winner Sheikh Mustafa Abdulla Mohammed.



A new standard of quality

THE West German car manufacturer Audi (Ingolstadt) has been manufacturing bodyshells consisting entirely of double-sided galvanised steel panels as a volume — production operation since 1985. The Audi 100 and Audi 200 models were the first to receive this treatment. The Audi 80 and Audi 90 followed shortly afterwards. More recently introduced, the Audi V8 and Audi Coupe are also fully galvanised in this way. The use of fully galvanised steel panels in car manufacture is, without doubt, the most effective means of corrosion protection currently available. Combined with the protection measures already in use, there is hardly a chance of rust appearing on an Audi bodyshell. In view of this, Audi has been able to offer since January 1988 a 10-year warranty against rust-through. A three-year paint warranty for all models provides further cover. Picture shows 1987 model Audi 80

CINEMA
Al Andalus
Iron Angels II
Starring: Alex Young, Mona Lee
Al Sahm
Revenge of the Nerds II
Starring: Robert Carradine, Anthony Edwards
Al Hamra
Lucas
Starring: Charlie Chan, Kato, Canton
Al Firdous
Sawal (Hindi)
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon
Drive-In
Arees Fi Al Ya Naseeb (Arabic)
Starring: Samir Ghanim, Dalal Abdul Aziz
Fahad
Shatru
Jahra
Arabic Film
Granada
Capture of Big Foot
Salaibikhat
1921
Al Jleeb
Clerk
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic Film
FRIDAY
Jahra
Iron Angels
Granada
Agnee
Salaibikhat
Moving

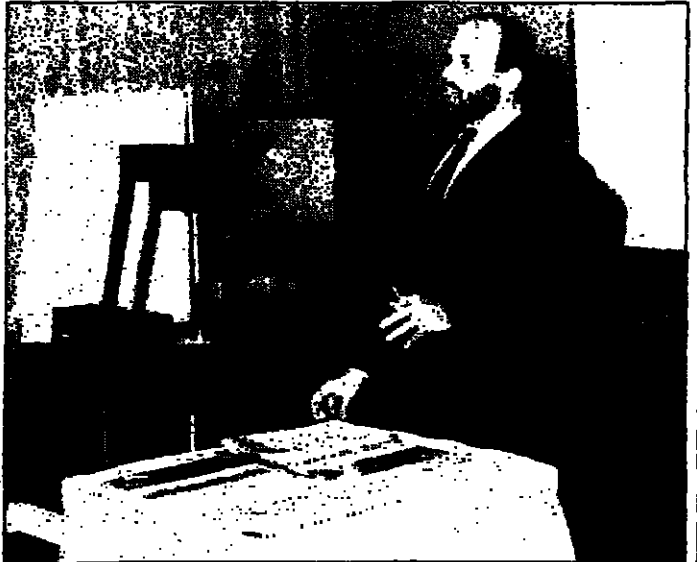


Photo & Cine holds seminar

PHOTO & CINE, a leading company dealing in the latest office automotive equipment, together with Neusiedler AG, a manufacturer of high quality paper for the modern office, held a seminar conducted by Dr Buchtele of Neusiedler Austria about the importance and the influence of paper in written office communication. Picture shows Dr Buchtele addressing the seminar.

Barbie doll's fashion story

THE world celebrates 30 years of fashion and fun with Barbie doll. In 1959, Mattel Toys created Barbie—an 11 1/2 inch fashion doll, designed, marketed and introduced at the Toy Fair in March 1959. The early Barbie dolls reflected the Paris couture and high fashion image of a top model. Soon, Barbie had an identity of her own, becoming a friend and confidante to an entire generation of girls as the "girl next door". Today, Barbie doll as their "dream girl." Through the years, Barbie has had a supporting cast that began with boyfriend Ken in 1961; her best friend Midge, introduced in 1963-1967, returned in 1988, and sister Skipper (introduced 1964). Barbie is also popular among thousands of adult collectors.



Barbie doll decked out in a floral and fringed outfit from the mid-70s.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 2
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Denver cartoon serial
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club
7.00 Munsters Today
7.30 TNT: "Junkyard Blues"
8.00 News in English
8.35 Special programme on Medical Aid
8.55 Beauty and the Beast
9.40 Paul Daniel's Magic Show
10.30 Thursday's feature: "The Room Upstairs"
12.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/
Closedown
FRIDAY
4.00 Holy Quran
4.10 Centurions: cartoon serial
4.30 Italian Football
5.30 American Basketball
6.30 Inter Bang: Episode 4. Bruno and Gianni wants Dr Welles to decode a document.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: a look at what's happening at various clubs in Kuwait
8.50 Sable: A new series starts tonight.
9.30 The Charmings: A doctor tries to cure Eric's paranoi.
10.00 Tales from the Other-side: "Inside the Closet". A tale from the dark, unexplained side of life—the supernatural. Tonight, it revolves around the mystery of the closet.
10.30 Blue Blood: "Who Was That Man?" Henry is hired to find a man who disappeared during the Vietnam War and reappears, after several years, in Paris only to vanish again.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/
Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Sha'ab Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Tala Pharmacy
Al Hilal St., opposite to the Ministry of Education
Hawalli and Nagra
Zina Pharmacy
Nagra, Bin Khalid St.
Sahm and Rumaithiya
Al Markaziya Pharmacy
Amro Bin Al Aas St.
Fahad and Almadhi
Al Eiman Pharmacy
Makkah St, Fahad
Oleek/Al Shuyukh/
Wahran Pharmacy
Al Souq St.
Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Da'bal Al Khazal St., near the Educational Department
FRIDAY
Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Salam Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Naser Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St.
Sahm and Rumaithiya
Ibn Al Nafees Pharmacy
Hamad Al Mubarak St.
Fahad and Almadhi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road.
Kheitan
Kheitan Pharmacy
Ibrahim bin Adham St.
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opposite to Jahra Co-op.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bangladesh Art Show
UPTO May 27. Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
MAY 25 (8.00 pm): Kuwait Singers presents "Stage Struck", an evening show of songs from Broadway and the West End at Gulf English School, Salwa. For tickets and reservations contact 5317433/5384873. Tickets KD3.

PLAYS

Kuwait Players
May 28 — June 1 (7.30 pm): Kuwait Players will present the last production of the season, a comedy entitled When Did You Last See Your Trousers, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets — KD3. For reservations call 5637088; 5629875.

SOCIAL

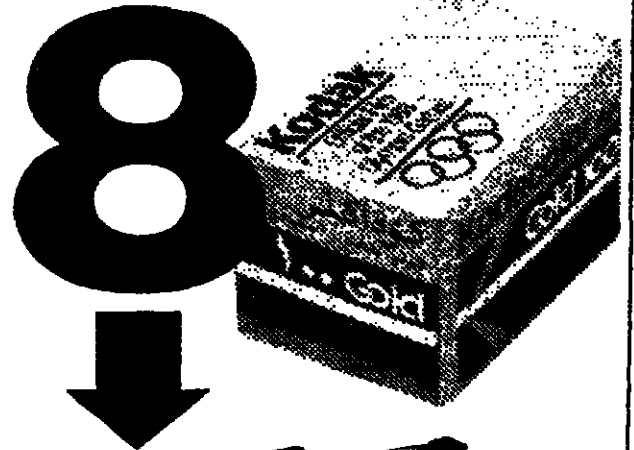
German Week
ON the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Construction Day, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, will hold week-long festivities:
MAY 25 (3 pm): Finals of the Nation's Fun cup tennis tournament, followed by German food buffet. KD 3 per person.
MAY 26 (3-6 pm): International Children's Festival; magic, music, games and food; plus painting competition for children aged five and eight years.
All events will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel. For reservations call the Regency Palace, German booking office, German Embassy — 4814055; German School — 5640030; German Library, Holiday Inn Hotel, ext. 6096.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.19 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.39
Isha	8.08
FRIDAY	
Fajr	3.18 am
Friday Prayer	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	8.09

GREAT GIFTS from ASHRAF'S

Buy Collect & Win



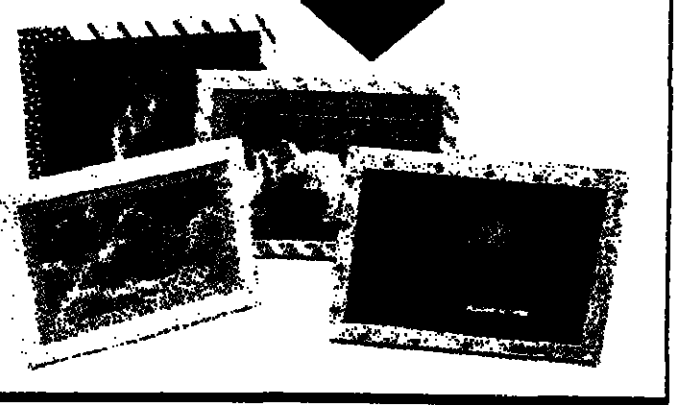
Buy 8 Kodak films and get a free sports bag.



Buy 4 Kodak films and get a free T-Shirt.



Buy 2 Kodak films and get a free photo frame.



Collect your gifts at any of Ashraf's Retail Shops
Offer valid from 11/3 until 31/5/1989

Attention: Offer valid only on films carrying this sticker.
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Ashraf & Co. Ltd.
Kuwait City: 2412180, Fahad: 3827081, Farwaniya: 4749478, Salmiyah: 5749267

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Please call: 4814221

WANTED
Canara Exchange Co. W.L.L. has opening for
Counter Clerks-cum-Typists/Cashier
Candidates with previous experience and extensive contacts and of public relations orientation will be preferred. Those interested may contact at the following address:
Al Mansoor Bldg., Al Hilal St.
Opp. Safat Post Office, Murgab

Urgently Required Trailer Drivers
Immediate vacancies exist for Trailer Drivers for local and export transport. The position offers an attractive salary, and potential trip bonus. Candidates must have transferable residence and valid HGV Kuwait licence. Interested candidates should apply in person, with passport copy to:
Personnel Group
Yusuf Ahmed Alghamdi & Sons W.L.L.
Airport Road, Salmiyah.

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Kuwait's 4th Bi-annual Powerboat Race

May 25, 1989

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

Results of Kuwaiti racers steadily improving

Powerboat racing: a viable, realistic new sport in Kuwait

By Gail Seery

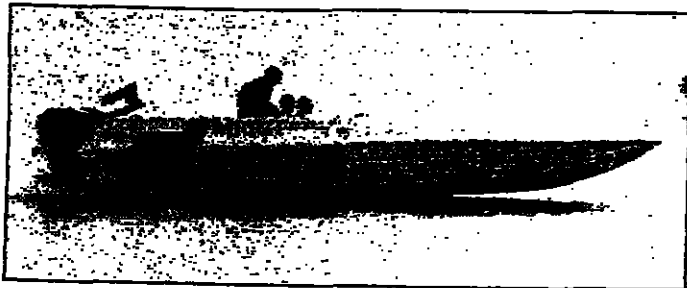
Powerboat racing has come a long way since the first Dubai race in 1986 and the first Kuwait event, sponsored by this newspaper, in 1987. When Arab Times, and Al Seyassah newspapers brought powerboat racing to Kuwait, it was hard work convincing people that this was a viable and realistic new sport.

Now however, the success of our endeavours can be measured by the fact that the sport is well and truly established with a constant influx of new racers, and a healthy amount of sponsor interest, reflecting the interest of not only the Kuwait press and media but also of world-wide publications and television.

It's sometimes hard to believe that only two years ago potential sponsors were saying that nobody was interested in powerboat racing.

The results of our racers have steadily improved. In the recent Offshore Powerboat Race, the first Dubai race, competitors travelled to Kuwait, and took first and third places. Khaled Bakhit won the race, some seven seconds ahead of Mishal Al Jarallah, and Ahmed Juma came home third.

They returned for the third race, and were well and truly beaten. Khaled al Khaled won, followed by Khalifa Al Qatami, and Sheikh Khaled Al



Mishal Al Jarallah races home in the Jordan tri-country powerboat race



There is a healthy amount of sponsor interest as well as spectator interest in the sport.

Following the lead of the recent Offshore Powerboat Race, the first Dubai race, competitors travelled to Kuwait, and took first and third places. Khaled Bakhit won the race, some seven seconds ahead of Mishal Al Jarallah, and Ahmed Juma came home third.

They returned for the third race, and were well and truly beaten. Khaled al Khaled won, followed by Khalifa Al Qatami, and Sheikh Khaled Al

In January's Dubai race, five Kuwaiti teams, Ahmed and Khaled Al Ansari, Khalifa Al Qatami and Abdullah Al Badr, Mohammed Karam and Hosam Al Sayafe, Khaled Al Khaled and Shah, and Mishal Al Jarallah and Anando Fernando competed in a field of sixty boats.

Karam and Sayafe romped home fourth, and Khalifa Al Qatami finished eleventh in his class. Ahmed Al Ansari had engine problems, and Khaled

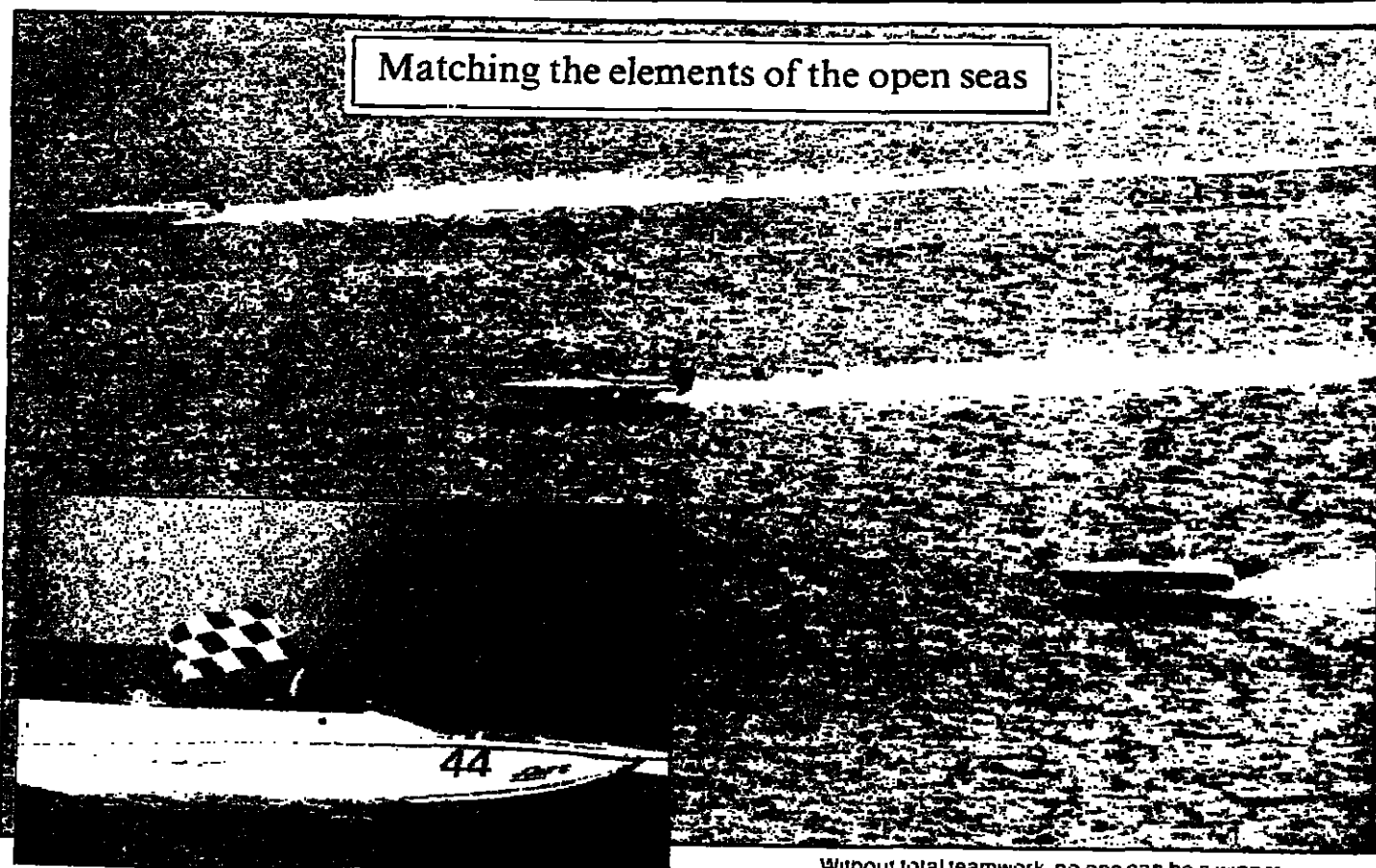
Al Khaled was unable to start the race. Mishal Al Jarallah's boat was involved in a road accident and he was forced into a spectator role.

Jordan saw some confusion among all outboard competitors as to the exact location of one of the turning points, but Mishal Al Jarallah raced home ahead, with Caprisonne from Dubai filling the second slot, and Saeed Al Sha'ali in third. Khalifa Al Qatami lost his steering and made a 360 degree turn at high speed, an unnerving experience which did not stop him and Al Badr from fixing the problem and plodding on, impressing everyone with their tenacity.

In the main Dubai race, which sees eighty boats competing, many of which are crewed by international professionals, Jarallah finished fourth, and Sayafe was in eighth place.

These results are potentially the start of an excellent reputation for the Kuwait teams — as long as they keep their freshness and their enthusiasm for the sport. It was a great shame for them to be beaten so overwhelmingly by Dubians who cannot beat the Kuwait teams on their own home ground. The Kuwaitis should gain as much race experience, and as much rough weather experience as possible each year if they are to fulfill the potential they have already shown.

Matching the elements of the open seas



Without total teamwork, no one can be a winner.

'Speed, navigation and endurance'

"OFFSHORE racing is speed, navigation and endurance. It is the only sport in the world to match men, women and equipment against the elements of the open seas at potentially dangerous high speeds," according to the American Powerboat Association.

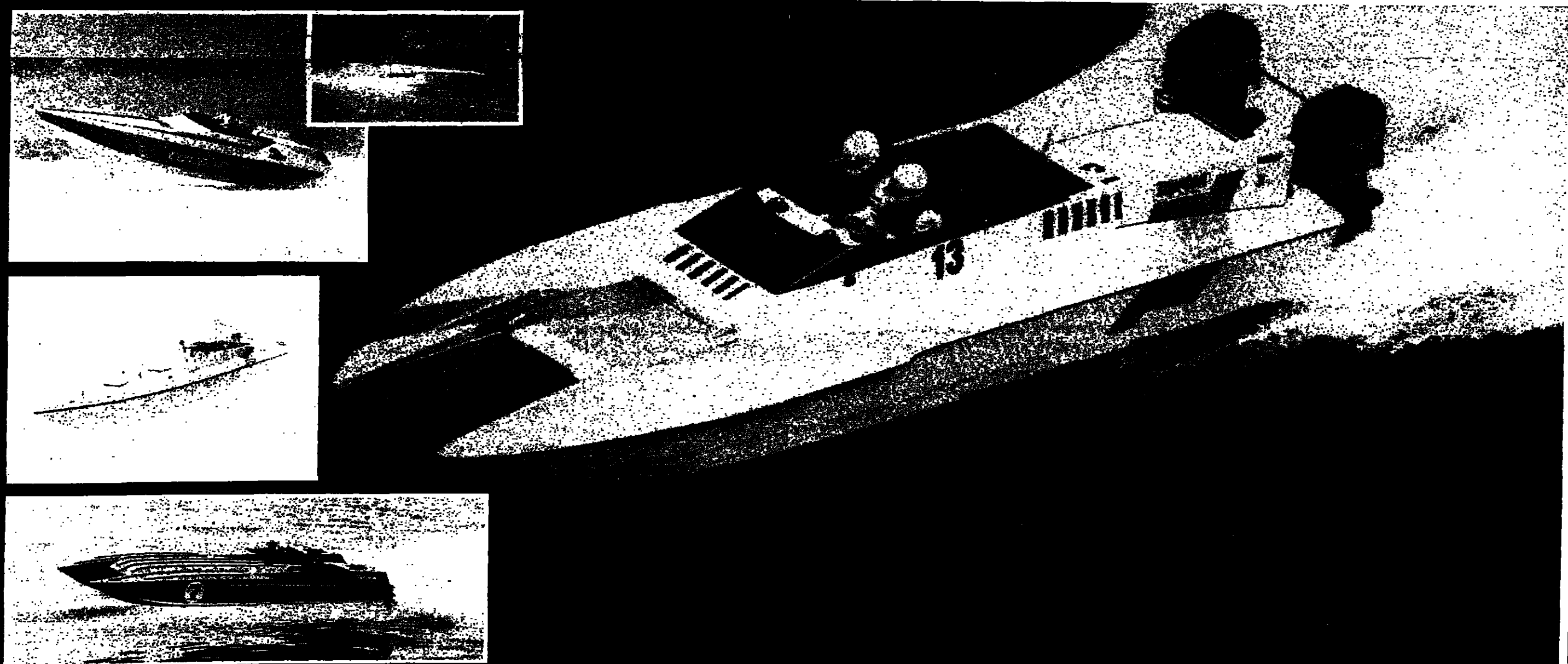
This sport is one of the few leisure pursuits ideally adapted to the region and climate, and has grown rapidly in popularity since it was started in Kuwait in 1987.

Many factors contribute to overall success; it is not a question of just having the most powerful engines or the best boat. The strongest engines may not win the race if fixed to a heavy boat, if they have been incorrectly or inadequately prepared or if the crew make an error.

The sea changes continually, and no-one knows exactly what conditions he will be racing against, or what problems he may meet. For the racers this element of the unknown is a challenge — and also contributes to the danger of the sport.

Each boat is crewed by at least two men. The driver steers, and the throttleman operates the throttles — a vital task which becomes more difficult in rough sea. A mistake on the part of either man can lose the race. The navigation element is also vital, and in European and World class events it is common to see an additional crew member working on this alone.

Support teams need to be quick and efficient, as race engines are notoriously temperamental, and without total teamwork on and offshore, nobody can be a winner.



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4TH BI-ANNUAL OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACE: AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

Where the
Race will
Take place

DETAILS OF ROUTES

From	To	Course	Distance
TP A	TP B	175	11.2
TP B	TP C	322	11.2
TP C	TP D	175	11.2
TP D	TP E	175	11.2
TP E	TP F	175	11.2
TP F	TP G	175	11.2
TP G	TP H	175	11.2
TP H	TP I	175	11.2
TP I	TP J	175	11.2
TP J	TP K	175	11.2
TP K	TP L	175	11.2
TP L	TP M	175	11.2
TP M	TP N	175	11.2
TP N	TP O	175	11.2
TP O	TP P	175	11.2
TP P	TP Q	175	11.2
TP Q	TP R	175	11.2
TP R	TP S	175	11.2
TP S	TP T	175	11.2
TP T	TP U	175	11.2
TP U	TP V	175	11.2
TP V	TP W	175	11.2
TP W	TP X	175	11.2
TP X	TP Y	175	11.2
TP Y	TP Z	175	11.2

Entry Requirements

- Boats must be at least 18ft in length.
- Engines must be outboard. If a single engine boat is used, an additional 10hp engine is advised. A maximum of two engines are allowed.
- Crew must have a minimum of two persons. All must be at least 18 years of age.
- Date May 26, 1989
- The boat must be registered with the port authority of Kuwait, or if the boat is from outside Kuwait, with the authority for its port of origin.

Safety Requirements

- All participants must have the following equipments:
- A helmet and protective glasses.
- Lif jackets (inflatable life jets not permitted).
- A marine compass (advanced electronic navigation equipment is prohibited).
- Anchor suitable for the size of the boat and a 25-metre (minimum) rope.
- At least three red safety flares and a fire extinguisher.
- Boats must be adequately supplied with fuel sufficient to cover the race distance.
- Any battery or fuel tank leakages must be well-checked and repaired before the race.
- Each boat should carry either a telephone or a 2-way radio system.
- All lifejackets and helmets must be orange.
- Failure to comply with the above regulations and safety requirements will result in disqualification. Scrutineering will be held prior to the race, and competitors must display their safety equipment on the deck of the boat.
- Bulletins detailing further requirements/information will be issued from time to time.
- Participation is open to all Gulf citizens and residents who have lived in the Gulf for a minimum of six months.

Flags Used

Checkered (Race end)

- Blue (Rescue patrol boats)
- Orange (Direction boats)
- White (Lead boat)
- Black (Race cancelled)
- White with red cross (Some injured on the boat)
- Yellow — Five minutes to start
- Green — Race start

Start procedure

All boats should be behind the starting buoys at 12.50pm. The race starts when the leading boat moves off and gives the start signal. No boats should overtake the starting buoys before the lead boat. You are not allowed to overtake the lead boats before the start signal is given.

Until the signal to approach the line is given the boats must wait the "milling area," where their speeds must not exceed 5mph. No boat is allowed onto the course before the race starts. Five minutes before the race, a boat with a yellow flag will approach the milling area from the take-off line and turn across the approach line. Five minutes later the start boat, displaying a white flag, will take the same route, moving across the approach line and back towards the start line. Competitors must follow the start boat at speeds up to 30mph, and a minimum of 30 metres behind. When the start boat passes the buoy it will drop the white flag and raise the green flag, to signify that the race is under way. Competitors must pass between the buoys at the start and finish of the event, and round the turning points in the correct direction and sequence.

Surpass regulations

While overtaking another boat on either side you must not interfere after overtaking.

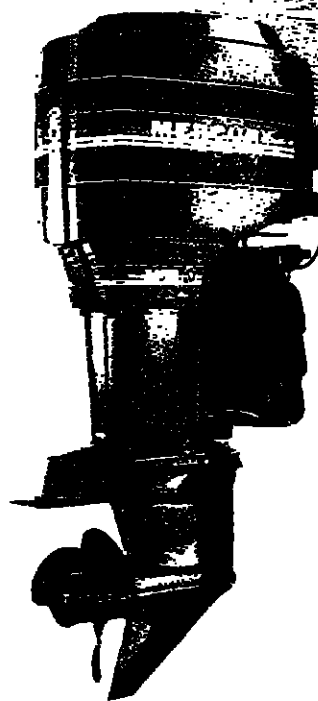
The boat being passed must not alter its course to stop other boats from overtaking, during or after the manoeuvre.

While overtaking another boat at turnings, enough distance should be left between boats to ensure the safety of both.

After finishing the race make sure that your boat is not obstructing the course.

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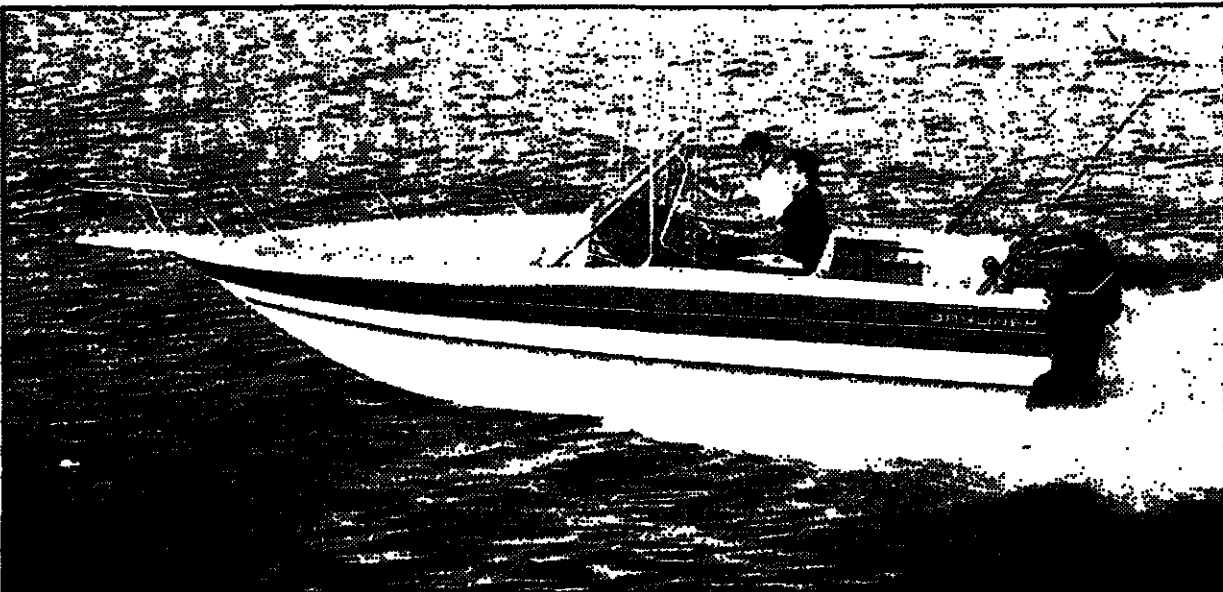
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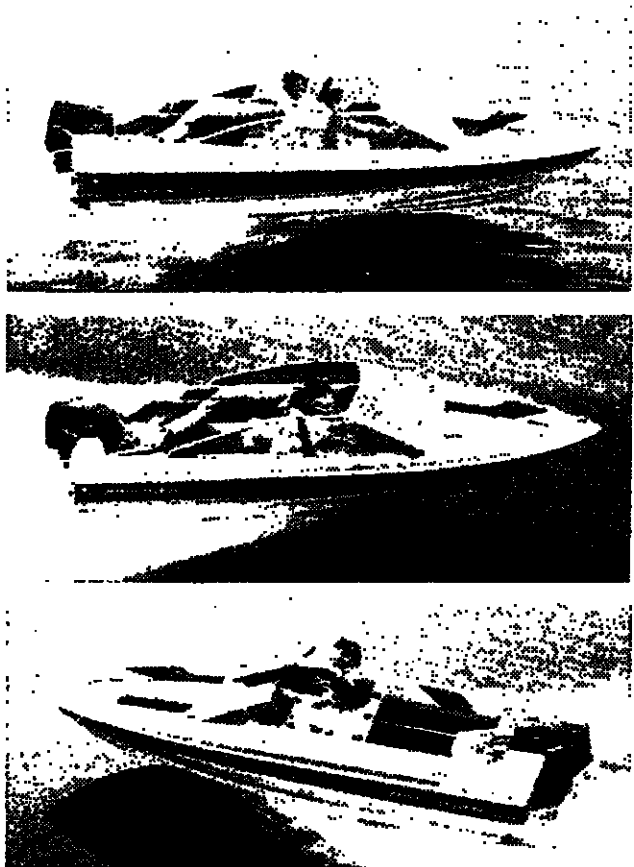
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For the layman

A guide to offshore racing

By the term "offshore" we mean competitions between motor boats on the sea or on open surfaces of water, as distant from "inshore" competitions where the boats compete on inland, or at any rate sheltered, waters.

Offshore boats are divided into seven categories, according to the cylinder capacity of the engines and the length of the craft. One or more engines can be mounted, either inboard or outboard, although by far the greater number of boats mount two in/outboards with special racing-type transmissions. In every class diesel engines can have double the cylinder capacity of the equivalent gasoline engines.

The boats, for the most part constructed in light alloy or in glass fibre reinforced with aramidic fibres, carry a crew of two or three: pilot, co-pilot who controls the throttles, navigator. Each member of the crew, who must wear a safety jacket and a protective helmet, is secured to the boat by cables which shut off the motor in the unfortunate event that he gets thrown overboard. During the competitions the use of radio is forbidden; each crew has to rely on its own resources to plan and follow the predetermined course.

Crews

All boats must have at least 2 pilots with offshore licences and licences for navigation beyond 6 miles.

Offshore categories Class "1":

gasoline up to 16,400 cc Diesel up to 32,800 cc Boats from 20 to 50 feet (6-15 metres) Limits for turbo gasoline: 1:1.4 No limits for turbo diesel

Class "2":

single engine inboard gasoline up to 8,194 cc Permitted: injection, special exhaust tubes, four-body carburettor Single engine diesel inboard up to 16,387 cc More than one inboard gasoline engine up to 12,290 cc Injection not permitted; maximum space allowed between manifold and carburettors is 64 mm Permitted: single carburettors with four

bodies or 3 double-body carburettors or 6 single-body;

More than one diesel engine up to 24,600 cc. More than one outboard up to 8,194 cc. Injection permitted All the engines, including diesel, are subject to penalties. 1:1.4 in the case of turbocompressors. Boats from 20 to 50 feet (6-15 metres).

Class "3E":

from 2,001 to 4,100cc Boats from 5.18 metres upwards.

Class "3C":

from 1,351 to 2,000 cc Boats from 4.75 metres upwards.

Class "3B":

from 1,001 to 1,350 cc Boats from 4.25 metres upwards.

Class "3A":

from 390 to 1,000 cc Boats from 4.25 metres upwards.

Diesel engines can have twice the cylinder capacity in all the "3" classes. For Turbo gasoline there is a limitation of 1:1.4 Diesel engines are not subject to this limitation.

Regulations

for engines in Class "1" and "2"

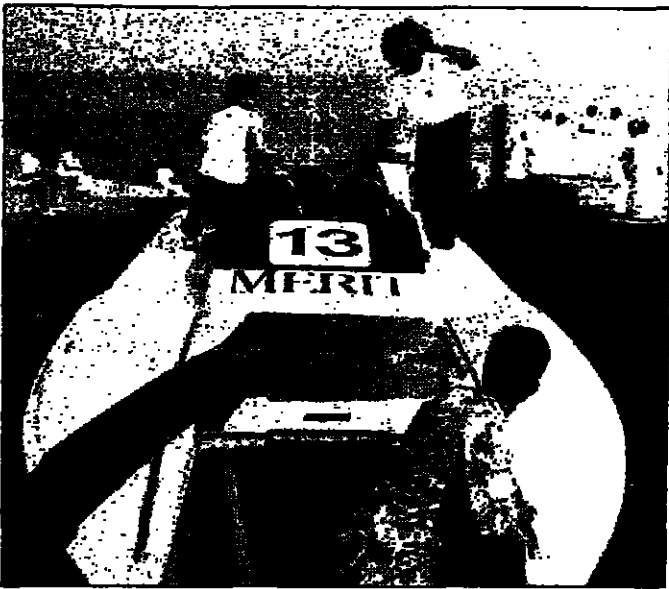
Outboard and inboard engines, gasoline or diesel, must be manufactured starting from a cylinder block and basic cylinder heads (original or manufactured as single parts) for an automobile or industrial engine of which more than a thousand units a year are manufactured and certified by the national authority and approved by the U.I.M. (Union Internationale Motonautique) as marine engines of which at least 30 units have been manufactured.

The cylinder block and heads can be modified if care is taken not to exceed the maximum cylinder capacity of the class.

The exhaust tubes must be cooled from the engine outlet to the point at which they protrude from the hull.

Approvals

Approval of new engines takes place once a year at a special meeting of the International Technical Committee. The date is fixed during the first week of December.



A lot of off-shore help is required before a boat goes into action.

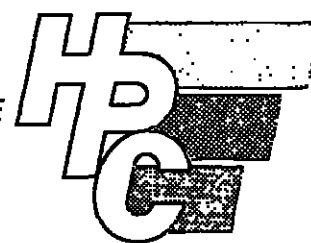
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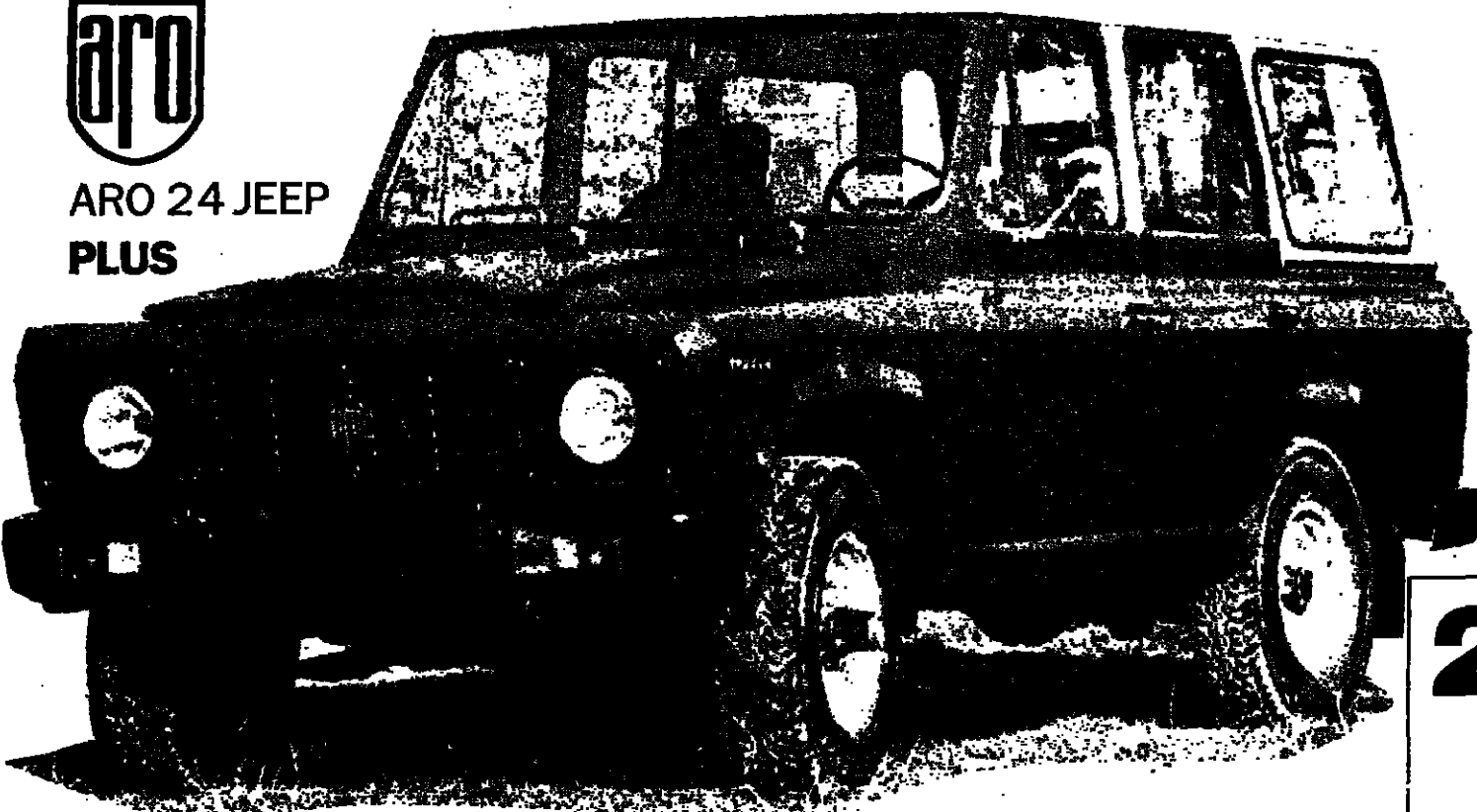
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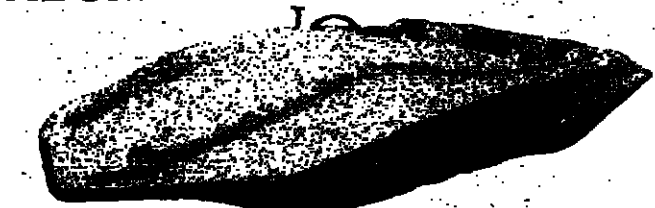
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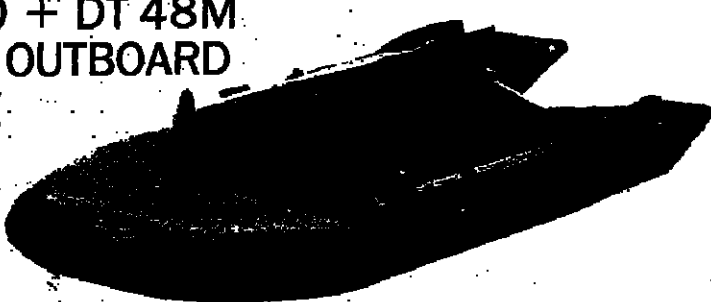
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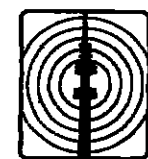
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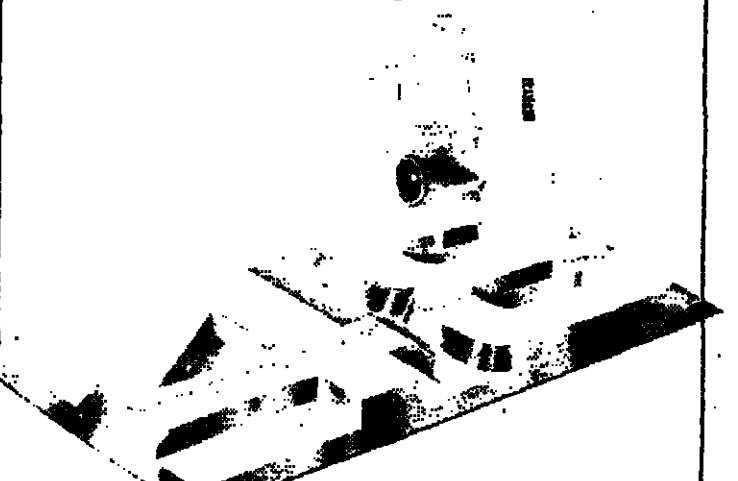
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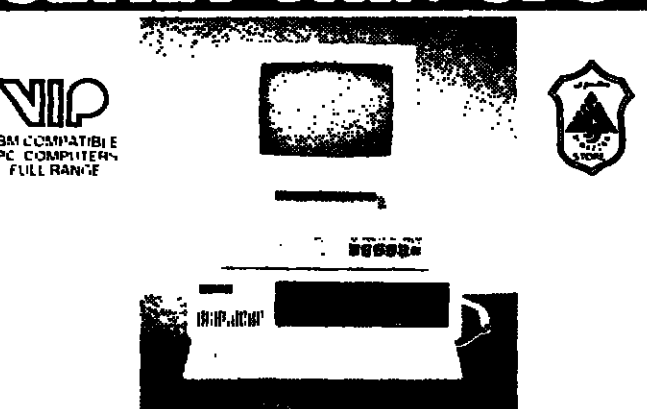
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SPORTS

Cincinnati outclass St Louis

CINCINNATI, May 24. (AP): Starter Danny Jackson singled in two runs and reliever Rob Dibble escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth inning last night, leading the Cincinnati Reds past the St Louis Cardinals 6-4.

Jackson, 37, has just two victories since opening day — both against the Cardinals, who are winless in four games against the Reds this season.

The left-hander, who won 23 games last season, pitched five shutout innings before a three-run rally chased him in the sixth.

Dibble relieved with the bases loaded and one out, struck out Terry Pendleton and got Tony Pena to pop out.

"The Reds hit a pitcher who didn't quite have his stuff," Kinzer said. "I was real nervous, real anxious. I'm not making excuses, but that might have been part of it."

Pirates 5, Braves 2
John Smiley pitched an eight-hitter and Glenn Wilson hit a two-run homer as Pittsburgh beat Atlanta, Smiley, 5-1, struck out nine and walked one in sending Atlanta to its eighth loss in 10 games.

Cubs 5, Astros 4
Shawon Dunston hit a two-run homer and Scott Sanderson won his fourth straight decision as Chicago beat Houston, the Cubs' seventh victory in their last eight games.

Pirates 3, Mets 2
Eric Show scattered nine hits in 8 2/3 innings for his first victory over New York in four years as San Diego beat the Mets and Dwight Gooden, John Kruk and Louis Salazar hit home runs for the Padres.

Phillies 4, Dodgers 1
Randy Johnson pitched a complete game and drove in three runs in eight innings as Los Angeles beat Philadelphia, 1-0. Angels and Fernando Valenzuela.

Giants 4, Expos 2
Rick Reuschel became the National League's first eight-game winner this season and Will Clark hit a two-run homer, leading San Francisco past Montreal. Reuschel, 8-2, allowed six hits in 7 2/3 innings and gave up one earned run.

Results:
American League
Boston 10, Seattle 4
Detroit 4, Cleveland 2
Toronto 5, Minnesota 2
Baltimore 3, Chicago 1
Milwaukee 9, Oakland 1
Texas 10, Kansas City 8
California at New York, ppd., rain

National League
Cincinnati 6, St Louis 4
Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 2
Chicago 9, Houston 1
Philadelphia 4, Los Angeles 1
San Diego 3, New York 2
San Francisco 4, Montreal 2

Hughes to lead South African province team

DURBAN, South Africa, May 24. (AP): Kim Hughes, the Australian cricket star who has led two rebel tours to South Africa, said yesterday he will play here for the next two seasons as captain of the Natal province team.

Hughes said at a news conference that he return to Australia to wrap up personal affairs and then move to South Africa with his family in September.

Hughes was captain of Australian squads that toured South Africa in 1985-86 and in 1986-87, without the authorisation of Australian cricket officials. Most national cricket federations, like governing bodies of many other sports, discourage contacts with South Africa as part of a widespread sports boycott imposed to protest apartheid.

At the conclusion of the first tour, Hughes described his team as "ambassadors for sport and ambassadors for humanity."

English clubs not considered for 'Super League'

BARCELONA, May 24. (Reuters): English teams have no place in any future European Soccer League because of their antiquated stadiums, AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi said yesterday.

Berlusconi, speaking on the eve of his Italian club's European Cup final against Steaua Bucharest of Romania, said he had not considered any English clubs for an ambitious and theoretical European "Super League" he hopes to create in the future.

He said he had spoken to Bordeaux of France, PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands and Real Madrid and received positive responses to his plans.

Anderlecht of Belgium, Bayern Munich of West Germany, IFK Gothenburg of Sweden and Barcelona, together with his own club, were likely to be part of the planned League, he said.

He said English clubs could not be invited to join, however, because their stadiums were out of date and not up to the required standards in terms of both comfort and safety.

He said the English stadiums would have to be "greatly improved," to show a

considerable reduction in violence before any English clubs could be considered.

Berlusconi, an Italian television mogul, has been a strong advocate for the formation of a European Super League for many years and has set up and run several prestigious international pre-season tournaments in recent years.

He said he hoped to create the fabric for the formation of a European League in readiness for a future date when it may be ratified by the European Football Union (UEFA).

Liverpool blast West Ham

Arsenal need at least 2-0 win



LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): Liverpool all but secured the English First Division soccer championship last night when they crushed West Ham 5-1 to send the London side down to Division Two.

The result means Liverpool, who beat city neighbours Everton 3-2 on Saturday to lift the FA (Football Association) Cup, can even afford to lose 1-0 at home to Arsenal on Friday to clinch their second Cup and League double in three years.

Arsenal need to beat Liverpool by two goals to win the championship on goal difference and claim their first League title since they achieved the double in 1971.

But Liverpool have lost only twice at home all season — and conceded only nine goals in 18 League matches at Anfield.

West Ham needed to win the match to avoid relegation. But two second-half goals from Ray Houghton — his first in nine matches — along with other

strikes from John Barnes and Cup final heroes Ian Rush and John Aldridge put paid to their slender hopes.

West Ham looked as though they were going to do Arsenal a huge favour, as well as saving their own skin, when they fought back after a 19th minute Aldridge goal to equalise through Leroy Rosenior in the 29th minute.

West Ham have not won at Anfield for 26 years but Rosenior came desperately close to giving his side the lead when he headed Liam Brady's free kick against the top of the bar.

But when Houghton struck in the 62nd minute, it was the prelude to the floodgates opening.

Houghton scored again in the 81st minute before Rush made it 4-1 four minutes from time and Barnes completed the rout in the last minute with a deflected shot.

If Arsenal win by at least two goals on Friday, both they and Liverpool will have the same goal

difference and the Londoners will take the title with a superior strike rate.

But Liverpool have not lost at home since Dec 17 and seem unlikely to squander such a glorious chance of becoming the first club to win the English Cup and League double twice.

Standings
English Division One soccer table after last night's match (tabulate under — played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Liverpool	37	22	10	5	65	26	76
Arsenal	37	21	10	6	71	36	73
Notts Forest	38	17	13	8	64	43	64
Norwich	38	17	11	10	48	45	62
Derby	38	17	7	14	40	38	28
Tottenham	38	15	12	11	60	46	57
Coventry	38	14	13	11	47	42	55
Everton	38	14	12	12	50	45	54
Q.P.R.	38	14	11	13	43	37	53
Millwall	38	14	11	13	47	52	53
Man. U.	38	13	12	13	45	35	51
Wimbledon	38	14	9	15	50	46	51
Southern	38	10	15	13	52	66	45
Charlton	38	10	12	16	44	38	42
Sheffield W.	38	10	12	16	34	51	42
Luton	38	10	11	17	42	52	41
Aston Villa	38	9	13	16	45	36	40
M. Brough	38	9	12	17	44	61	39
West Ham	38	10	8	20	37	62	38
Newcastle	38	7	10	21	32	63	31

Flames take lead in Stanley Cup

CALGARY, Alberta, May 24. (Reuters): The Calgary Flames moved to within one win of their first Stanley Cup championship with a 3-2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens at the Olympic Saddledome last night.

The Flames lead the best-of-seven game National Hockey League finals 3-2. The 23-time champion Canadiens will try to level the series at the Montreal Forum tomorrow.

Lakers beat Suns for 2-0 lead

INGLEWOOD, California, May 24. (AP): Byron Scott scored 36 points and Los Angeles outscored Phoenix 30-12 over a span of 12:20 in the second half last night as the Lakers beat the Suns 101-95 to take a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The victory was the ninth in as many playoff games for the two-time defending National Basketball Association champion Lakers, equalling the playoff record for consecutive victories they set

seven years ago. It was also the 14th consecutive win for the Lakers including the regular season, and their 11th straight playoff victory dating back to last season.

In the Eastern Conference finals Detroit Pistons beat Chicago Bulls 100-92 to tie the series 1-1.

A three-point play by Tom Chambers with 5:09 remaining in the third quarter gave the Suns a 68-60 lead, but the Lakers scored

11 of the final 16 points in the third quarter and 19 of the first 26 in the fourth period to go ahead 90-80 with 4:35 remaining.

Led by Dan Majerle, the Suns battled back in the late going. Two foul shots by Majerle with 43 seconds remaining made it 96-93, but James Worthy made a layup with 25 seconds remaining and Scott sank three free throws in the final 15 seconds to keep the Lakers on top.

West Indies expecting full tour by England

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 24. (Reuters): The West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) is expecting a full tour by the England team in January and negotiations should be completed soon, secretary Steve Camacho said yesterday.

Camacho told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) he was confident that a tour, hopefully including five Test matches, would go ahead as planned, despite reports in the British media that Trinidad and Tobago would not be included because of its stand on sporting contacts with South Africa.

Camacho said negotiations with the British cricket authorities were continuing on the itinerary and other arrangements.

"As we have said before, all the governments of the West Indies have been kept informed of our initiatives with regard to sporting contacts with South Africa and we are confident that a full tour by England will go ahead as planned," he said.

Camacho said most of the arrangements for the itinerary had been settled.

Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean governments welcomed the International Cricket Conference agreement this year to ban for up to five years men who play in South Africa.

Meanwhile, Barbadian Franklyn Stephenson, the Nottinghamshire all-rounder whose life ban for playing in South Africa has been lifted by West Indies, said yesterday his ambition was to win international honours.

Stephenson, who last summer became only the second player since 1967 to complete the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in first-class cricket in an English season, said: "Everybody wants to represent their country and I'm no exception."

"All I can do is keep playing well for Notts and hope I get my chance. Although I am pleased with the (West Indies) board's decision I wasn't altogether surprised. I was expecting the ban to be lifted at some stage."

"I was a bit naive when I went to South Africa. I thought that any ban the board imposed would be for no more than three years."

Stephenson, 30, was among 24 players whose suspension from all first-class cricket in the Caribbean for their involvement in rebel tours to South Africa in 1983 and 1984 was lifted on Monday.

Dutch coach names 19 for Cup qualifier

AMSTERDAM, May 24. (Reuters): Ruud Gullit, the injury-plagued AC Milan striker who has declared himself fit for this evening's European Cup final, has been named in the Dutch squad to face Finland in next week's World Cup qualifying match in Helsinki.

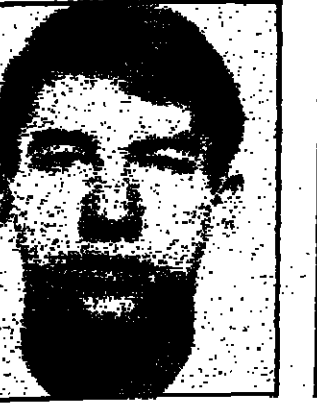
Coach Thuis Libregts has also recalled PSV Eindhoven goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen and striker Wim Kieft for the Group Four tie next Wednesday.

But Ajax winger Brian Roy has been dropped from the squad which drew 1-1 with West Germany last month and Libregts said he expected to cut the party from 19 to 16 players by the end of the week.

The Dutch are currently second behind the West Germans on goal difference in the four-team group.

Squad: Hans Van Breukelen, Joop Hiele, Graeme Rutjes, Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard, Fred Ruiten, Adri van Tiggelen, Aron Winter, Wim Hofkens, Erwin Koeman, Berry van Aerle, Rene Eijkelkamp, Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit, Juul Ellerman, Wim Kieft, Gerald Vanenburg, John van Loen, Pieter Huistra.

Glamorgan brush aside Northants



Steve Watkins



Trevor Jesty

because of an illness to his father, hardly affected the outcome. Glamorgan took 23 points and it was their first home win since they defeated Lancashire at Neath 21 months ago.

Meanwhile, Trevor Jesty cracked a brilliant 93 as Lancashire went top of the table with a six-wicket win over Somerset at Taunton.

An unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 141 in 21 overs between Jesty and flu victim Mike Watkins, whose 59 came off only 61 deliveries, gave Lancashire their third successive championship victory.

Jesty hit 11 fours and a six as Lancashire, set 300 to win, reached their target with 19 balls to spare.

Results
At Swansea: Glamorgan beat Northamptonshire by 244 runs. Glamorgan 290 in 90.4 overs and 214 for four declared (R. Shastri 48, M. Cann 45 not out). Northamptonshire 200 in 99.3 overs and 60 (S. Watkins six for 42).

Glamorgan 23 points, Northamptonshire six.

At Taunton: Lancashire beat Somerset by six wickets. Somerset 399 for four declared in 110 overs and 203 for four declared. (P. Roebuck 66, R. Bartlett 48).

Lancashire 303 for eight declared in 99.4 overs and 302 for four (T. Jesty 93 not out, M. Watkins 59 not out, G. Mendis 59, N. Fairbrother 47). Lancashire 21 points, Somerset seven.

At Edgbaston: Surrey beat Warwickshire by four runs. Surrey 293 in 94.5 overs and 108. Warwickshire 190 in 57.2 overs and 207 (A. Moles 100, M. Feltham four for 68, M. Bicknell three for 46). Surrey 23 points, Warwickshire five.



Clough (left) battles Chile's Jaime Pizarro for possession of the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rojas foils England

Chile draw opener

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): Veteran goalkeeper Roberto Rojas turned the clock back five years as he earned Chile a goalless draw against England in the opening match of the Rous Cup soccer tournament yesterday.

In 1984 Rojas goalkeeping was the main reason for a similar scoreline when the two teams met in Santiago.

On Chile's first appearance at Wembley stadium, he showed the passage of time had done little to diminish the agility and anticipation that makes him one of the world's outstanding goalkeepers.

There was little else to distinguish a match watched by a crowd of only 15,628, the smallest ever to view an international at Wembley.

A transport-strike contributed to the poor turn-out but those who were kept away missed very little.

England, with a new attacking partnership of John Fashanu and Nigel Clough, dominated territorially but played with little cohesion or purpose.

By their reactions at the end Chile looked to have achieved what they wanted.

The two remaining Rous Cup matches will both be played in Glasgow where Scotland face England on Saturday and Chile next Tuesday.

Even by the standards of a match that was played throughout at a sedate pace, the opening minutes were painfully slow.

Paul Gascoigne provoked the first ripple of excitement with a free kick in the 12th minute that enabled Rojas to demonstrate his ability with a diving save at his left post.

Rojas made an identical save in the 35th minute when Gascoigne again bent a free kick round a wall of defenders.

For all England's territorial superiority, the best chance of the first half fell to Chile in the 25th minute.

Oswaldo Hurtado, set free on the right, cut in on goal and his floated shot, with Peter Shilton off his line, brought the best out of England's goalkeeper.

Johnson inquiry resumes

TORONTO, May 24. (Reuters): A doctor accused of supplying illegal muscle-building steroids to Canadian Olympic athletes was to be the first witness to testify today when a government inquiry resume into the use of drugs in sport.

Dr George Mario (James) Astaphan is expected to provide valuable information into the scandal surrounding Ben Johnson, who was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal at last year's Seoul Olympics after testing positive for steroid use.

Astaphan, 43, has denied supplying steroids to Canadian athletes. That has been disputed during 49 days of testimony during which sprint coach Charlie Francis and other athletes have said Johnson had been on a steroid programme since 1981 and that other Canadian sprinters took the drugs.

Astaphan, who arrived in Toronto last week from his home on the Caribbean island of St Kitts to testify at the inquiry, was unrepentant during an hour-long interview.

"I don't care what people consider me — I do my thing. I broke no law," he was quoted as saying.

"To change anything orthodox is to rub the grain the wrong way and it's a difficult thing to do. It's an almost impossible process, sometimes, and if you happen to do it, then you're an outcast," he added.

Astaphan has been described in testimony by athletes and other sports figures as a good family doctor with a passion for athletics and as an enthusiastic partner in coach Francis' attempts to build a world-class sprint team.

Last year he signed a \$10,000 a month contract to serve as Johnson's personal physician.

In the interview, Astaphan expressed pride in the role he had played in the achievements by Johnson and other Canadian athletes such as Angela Issajenko.

"We were the best team in the world. You can't beat the evidence, can you? We had results," he was quoted as saying.

Johnson still holds the world record of 9.83 seconds for the 100 metres, set in Rome in 1987.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Local hockey

THE Kuwait hockey season, after a short break for Ramadan, starts again tomorrow when Unity meet Cosmos in a Hila Trophy semifinal match while Al Hilal face Kuwait Independents Black in the semifinals of the Punjab Shield. Both the matches will be held at 4.30 pm at the Ahmadi hockey grounds.

YRC football

INCREDIBLE meet United Goan Strikers in the final of the Youth Recreation Centre (YRC) Football Tournament at the Sour ground at 3.30 pm. Col Abdul Fatah, from the Interior Ministry, will be the chief guest. The tournament is being organised by Rising Star.

Warshan wins

GOODWOOD, England, May 24. (Reuters): Result of the Predominant Stakes for three-year-olds run for one and a quarter miles today: 1. Warshan 7-2 (Ridden by Walter Swinburn) 2. Greenwich Papillon 25-1 (John Reid) 3. Really Brilliant 6-1 (Ray Cochrane)

Geneva Open

GENEVA, May 24. (Reuters): Second round results in the women's \$100,000 Geneva European Open tennis tournament today were: Larisa Savchenko (Soviet Union) beat 8-Catarina Lindqvist (Sweden) 7-5 6-6 6-2. Laura Lapi (Italy) beat Karin Kschwendt (Luxembourg) 7-5 6-4 4-6. Conchita Martinez (Spain) beat Laura Gildemeister (Peru) 6-0 6-3.

NBC sports

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24. (AP): NBC sports have reached a multi-year agreement to continue broadcasting of the Wimbledon tennis championships, which has covered the Grand Slam event from England for the past 21 years.

US sprinters

HOUSTON, May 24. (AP): US sprinters Mark Witherspoon and Floyd Heard were reprimanded by the Athletics Congress for failing to compete for the US team in the World Games in March, the Athletics Congress announced yesterday.

Title fight

SEOUL, May 24. (UPI): Venezuelan Fulgencio Obelmejias was training in Seoul today before travelling to the Southern Korean city of Yochon for his title defence against South Korean Baek In-Chul on Sunday.

Team golf

OAKVILLE, Ontario, May 24. (AP): Canada's Dave Barr and Dawn Coe combined yesterday to win the inaugural International Mixed Team Golf Tournament in a playoff over Japan's Tommy Tomijaga and Chihori Nakajima.

McEnroe will definitely play at Wimbledon

FLORENCE, Italy, May 24. (Reuters): The back problems which forced John McEnroe to withdraw from the French Open are not serious and the former world number one will definitely play at Wimbledon, McEnroe's manager Sergio Palmieri said yesterday.

"There is no cause for concern, Palmieri told Reuters. "He hasn't been able to start training after the back pains he suffered in the Netherlands in time for a tournament

like the French Open.

"But there is absolutely no problem at all for Wimbledon," Palmieri said. He said doctors had ordered seven to 10 days complete rest after McEnroe, 30, complained of back pains during an exhibition match in the Netherlands on May 12.

But he said the three times Wimbledon champion had decided to take a couple more days off before resuming training,

leaving little time to prepare for the French Open.

"In fact it will allow him to prepare better for Wimbledon," Palmieri added. "He'll probably arrive in England a week earlier than planned."

McEnroe, currently ranked seventh in the world, has won four US Open titles but has never won the French clay-court championship.

England take on Australia

Botham-Waugh battle in prospect



Ian Botham

MANCHESTER, England, May 24. (Reuters): England and Australia may not be the Test powers they once were but in terms of one-day cricket they are two of the best practitioners in the world — if not the best.

Accordingly, their one-day series starting at Old Trafford tomorrow and continuing at Trent Bridge on Monday promises outstanding entertainment.

England have won 28 of their last 40 limited-over internationals, including a 3-0 whitewash of West Indies a year ago, while Australia are the World Cup holders and defeated England in their last one-day meeting in Melbourne early last year.

The Australians could not be in better heart following their 109-run victory over Yorkshire yesterday.

David Boon and Dean Jones turned in particularly encourag-

ing performances. Boon taking his tour tally to 619 runs from six innings with a rampaging 172 and Jones proving his match fitness after a broken cheekbone with 89 not out.

Steve Waugh, a key member of the Australian line-up, also came through the match well following

recent shin trouble. All-rounder Waugh took three wickets and completed a full 11-over stint.

The contest between Waugh and England's fit-again all-rounder Ian Botham will be one to savour.

Waugh is the up-and-coming all-rounder the Australians reckon could swing both the limited-over games and the Test series. Botham, the old maestro, has it all to prove again following his back surgery.

The words of Bobby Simpson, the Australian coach, could well serve as an extra spur to Botham. Simpson said on Botham's international recall at the weekend: "We still respect him but he's getting in now more as a batsman who bowls rather than as a great all-rounder."

England may dispense with a spinner and take four front-line quick bowlers into tomorrow's opening contest.

If they did decide to leave out off-spinner John Emburey, Botham and Graham Gooch would share the fifth-bowler duty.

Emburey, for so long an automatic choice for England in one-day cricket, has struggled this season for any sort of consistency.

In a recent Sunday League match against Gloucestershire, his eight overs cost 60 runs and he has given away more than four runs per over in one-day matches for Middlesex this season.

In first-class cricket, he went more than 80 overs without a wicket until taking two late wickets against Australia on Monday.

The feeling is that Emburey will play at some stage in the three-match series but that initially England will mirror Australia's tried-and-trusted all-seam attack.

Stage set for powerboat race

By Gail Seery

THE best of Kuwait's drivers will be competing in the 4th Bi-annual Offshore Powerboat Race tomorrow. The race will start from the Messilah Beach Hotel at 1pm, and will cover a 67.5 nautical mile course, from in front of the hotel down to the Gazelle Club, back up into Kuwait Bay, and then down along the Salmiya coast to the finish line.

The race should take between one and two hours, depending on sea conditions, and is being held in conjunction with the Messilah Beach Hotel's third raft race.

The boats can be seen at the Sha'ab slipway during scrutineering this afternoon from 1pm till 5pm, when they will be checked to ensure that all safety equipment is present, and that the boats conform to regulations. This is an excellent opportunity to see the boat out of the water.

Main contenders for the first prize will be Mishal Al Jarallah, sponsored by the MTSC and partnered

by Anando Fernando in their Cougar Sportscat 25 powered by twin Mercury 2.4e f.i.s. and Hosam Al Sayaf sponsored by Merit Ultra Lights and partnered by Martin Bergman in a Gulfcraft 27 powered by two Johnson V8s.

Other strong contenders are likely to be Khaled Al Khaled, Thabit Al Banai, Khaled Al Sayegh sponsored by Qabazard Marine, Sheikh Athbi and Sheikh Khaled Al Sabah and fellow Give Way team members Abdullah and Khaled Ansari. Khaled Ansari's last race was as a throttleman to brother Ahmed in Giveaway, which currently lies on the sea bed after catching fire in the Sea Club race two weeks ago.

Two monohulls will be competing, driven by Ahmed Abdul Razzak and Hisham Al Shayer. A tough fight can be expected, particularly if sea conditions are favourable.

Communications for the race have been provided by the Mobile Telephone Systems Company, and the Arab Times would like to thank them for their assistance.

Merit team makes final preparations

ONE of the leading contenders for victory in tomorrow's 4th Kuwait Bi-Annual Offshore Powerboat Race, is Merit racer Hosam Al Sayaf, who will be partnered for this race by Martin Bergman, a Kuwait resident with powerboat racing experience in Europe.

The race will cover 67.5 nautical miles, and will run from the Messilah Beach Hotel down to the south, and then back up into Kuwait Bay, before running along the Salmiya coast to the finish line at Messilah.

The Merit Gulfcraft 27 hit problems in the recent Sea Club race, when one engine cover was lost and the steering bar was badly damaged by the rough seas. However these problems have now been ironed out, and Sayaf is confident that he has the ideal boat for Kuwait conditions. The team is making final preparations for the race.

"This boat is stable in rough water, but it also has the power to be able to take advantage of calm water," said the Merit racer, who has entered every Kuwait race to date. "The last race was its first outing, and now I know this boat and its capabilities. I am confident that it will perform well."

E. German athletes back in action

EAST BERLIN, May 24. (Reuters): Several top East German athletes will burst back into the scene at the weekend at a special domestic event for the throwing disciplines. Olympic short-put champion and world record holder Ulf Timmermann hopes to throw over 22 metres at the meeting in Rostock on Sunday.



Two competitors at the event shake hands after their match.

Faldo and Lyle return for British golf events

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): Britons Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle make a transatlantic return to the European golf tour this week for two events which should do much to clarify the conformation of Europe's Ryder Cup team this year.

After lurching through 13 events which all or some of the big names have skipped, the tour surges forward with this week's British PGA championship at Wentworth starting on Friday and missed six successive halfways cuts.

For the first time on the 1989 European Tour, all the top names come together and all but Spain's Seve Ballesteros move on to Woburn.

Faldo and Lyle return from their seasons of mixed success on the US Tour where Faldo followed Lyle as US Masters champion. Lyle, after a breezy start to the year, lost most of his form and missed six successive halfways cuts.

They join Ballesteros, leader of the European money list, titleholder Ian Woosnam of Britain, West German Bernhard Langer and all the winners of 1989 European events in the 144-man field.

The big names are virtually certain of making the Ryder Cup team to meet the Americans at the Belfry in central England whether or not they qualify on merit as one of the top nine on the money list.

Captain Tony Jacklin has three discretionary selections to make and would be certain to opt for his established stars if they were outside the leading nine.

But they can dislodge several of the present incumbents, players such as Denis Durnan, Gordon J. Brand, Paul Broadhurst and Mark Roe, all currently among the top nine.

Faldo, who won the British PGA title three times in four years from 1978 to 1981, is reveling in the euphoria of his victory at Augusta but is aware that his putting, as in 1988 when it cost him several victories, is still a problem.

"I'm playing very well from tee to green, but then it's the same old story," he said this week. "If I could pop in a few putts after my good approach shots, it could have been very different."

He achieved his success at Augusta — his only win this year — with a dramatic last day switch to a new putter which he has since discarded. Lyle, meanwhile, hopes he has put his suffering behind him after some recent swing changes, and winning prize money at the memorial tournament in Ohio two weeks ago boosted his morale.

Since then he has returned to his Wentworth home for practice and he feels he is ready to play well again.

"For the past few weeks I've been concentrating more on technique than scoring. Now I am happy with my game I can think positively about getting those birdies and eagles," he said.

Ballesteros was brilliant as he won the European Matchplay title early this month but he could only share sixth spot at last week's Italian Open.

Yet despite four World Matchplay titles at Wentworth, he has never won a strokeplay event there.

He captured the PGA title at St George's in 1983, the last time it was not played at Wentworth.

Nations Fun Cup enters final phase

INDIA, Czechoslovakia, Egypt and Germany moved into the semifinals of the Tennis Nations Fun Cup, being currently held at the Kuwait Regency Palace on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of West Germany, as the event reached its final stages.

Czechoslovakia, led by Georg Straka, are scheduled to meet India, led by Abraham Purnipil. The Czechs beat Japan 8 to reach the last four. In the other semifinal Egypt, with Waleed Salah, meet Germany A with tournament organiser Michael Schmidt playing the first singles. To get this far, Egypt beat Hungary 2-1 on Monday while Germany scored a 3-0 victory over the United States.

In the consolation round Cyprus pulled off a close fought victory over Poland by winning the decisive and thrilling mixed doubles 5-7, 7-6 and 7-6.

England A had a somewhat easier time beating the only team with mixed nationalities (United Nations team) by winning both the two singles and the mixed doubles.

In the bottom half of the consolation round Germany B had quite a hard time beating the Colombian team.

Today the finals of all the events will be held. At 12 noon, the finals for the consolation round mixed doubles will be held. The finals for the consolation round doubles will start at 2.00 pm while the singles competition will be held at 3.30pm. Mixed doubles finals will be held at 5.00 pm and the prize distribution ceremony at 7.30 pm.

Contini takes pink jersey

MESSINA, Sicily, May 24. (AP): Italian veteran Silvano Contini yesterday took the pink jersey of overall leader in the Italian Cycling Tour as his squad, Malvor Sidi, finished runner-up to Arioste in the third stage of the 32.5-kilometre against-the-clock race for teams.

Contini, 31, competing along with fellow-Italian Giuseppe Saronni, Lech Piatecki of Poland and six other teammates, completed the distance from Villafranca to Messina in 37:16 minutes and snatched the pink jersey from Portugal's Acacio da Silva.

Top drivers for Acropolis Rally

THE 36th Acropolis Rally, which begins in Athens on Sunday May 28, sees the clash of four of the world's major works teams. Lancia, Toyota, Mazda and Mitsubishi are all represented by a sparkling array of World Championship winning drivers which includes no less than five holders of that coveted crown: Miki Biasion, Juha Kankkunen, Hannu Mikkola, Timo Salonen and Ari Vatanen.

Main focus of attention will be the battle between Marlboro stars Biasion (Lancia), the reigning world champion, and Juha Kankkunen (Toyota), title holder in 1986 and 1987. Winners of the Acropolis 1988, Biasion and co-driver Tiziano Siviero have already won all three events which they have entered this year (Monte Carlo, Portugal and the Marlboro Safari Rally). The Italians have also won eight of the last nine World Champion-

ship rallies that they have started.

Refreshed after a vacation in the United States, Miki has no illusions about the task which faces him in the Grecian sunshine. "Last year we had a big fight with Kankkunen and this year I think will be the same. I know that Toyota have been working very hard to improve their car but then we at Lancia never stop either! Many people seem to think it is now easy for me to win rallies but winning is never easy, particularly when you are the one person everybody wants to beat. So I think Acropolis will be very tough this year."

His major opponent Kankkunen, winner of the Acropolis in 1986 for Peugeot, relishes the prospect of taking on the opposition on gravel in the much improved Toyota Celica. "The feeling is good!" chuckled the 30-year-old Finn. "And the car is

good too. The weather during the first week of practice has been incredibly hot, 35 degrees, but the engine even in the practice car has performed well. The first leg is rougher than last year but we have new suspension which should cope with that. This is a very nice rally, easy to practise because the legs are in loops and there are only 11 stages which are different from last year — and the people are so friendly and helpful. I have spent two weeks since Corsica playing golf in Spain so I am quite relaxed. No complaints!"

Support for Biasion is provided by France's proud new father Didier Auriol, winner of last month's Tour de Corse and competing in his first Acropolis Rally, whilst last year's third place men Alex Fiorio/Gigi Fiorio are reunited once more in a Jolly Club Integrale.

The heroes of this year's Marl-

boro Safari Rally, Jorge Recalde/Jorge del Buono have also secured a private Integrale for the occasion. The pair have always run well on the Acropolis, finishing a superb fourth in 1987 but forced to retire their Group N Lancia last year.

Kankkunen's Toyota team line-up is even more ambitious, with works Celicas for Carlos Sainz and Kenneth Eriksson and an assisted car for Belgium's Patrick Snijers. Sainz, fresh from testing a Porsche 962 at Dijon prior to his scheduled sports car racing debut in June, and co-driver Luis Moya make their first appearance on the Acropolis and are "practising like mad like normal" according to their team leader. Eriksson and new co-driver Staffan Parmander have come straight to Greece, full of confidence after their recent victory in the South Swedish Rally.

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